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Torres hires ex-FBI agent

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ov. Ralph DLG. Torres has hired former Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Jeremy Wolfe since either late November or early December in relation to the ongoing

FBI's probe against him and several others, Saipan Tribune learned.

Wolfe is currently a private investigator for Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, who are both facing corruption charges.

When asked for his opinion

about the importance of hiring a former FBI special agent as a private investigator in a case that is being handled by the FBI, veteran lawyer Michael Dotts said that having a former

See TORRES on Page 4

The new rule was announced last Thursday.

Applicants will be denied a tourist visa unless they can

No coronavirus case in the CNMI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has confirmed that a case it investigated last Friday turned out to be just a regular flu case and was not a possible novel coronavirus case (2019-nCoV).

According to a CHCC statement, five patients were seen at the Commonwealth Health Center Friday morn-

> See CORONAVIRUS on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

Markets around the world are feeling the coronavirus chill.

PAGE 14

■ Virus death toll in China rises as US prepares evacuation.

PAGE 16

Xi calls situation grave as China scrambles to contain **PAGE 18**

US cracks down on 'birth tourism'

» Pregnant foreign women will be denied tourist visa unless they have a medical reason to give birth in the **U.S.**—and the cash to pay for it

Effective last Friday, the Trump administration has imposed new visa rules aimed at restricting 'birth tourism,'

in which women travel to the prove they must come to the U.S. to give birth for medical United States to give birth so their children can have U.S. reasons and they have money citizenship. See US on Page 4

Cavanagh is Chamber Business Person of the Year

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce named Gloria Cavaat the Hyatt Regency Saipan the Chamber Member of the ballroom in Garapan.

The Chamber also handed out other awards that evening, including the Small Business the Year at a gala last Saturday to Island Training Solutions; See CAVANAGH on Page 4

Year award, which was a tie between IT&E-CNMI and the CNMI Small Business Development Center, the Non-Profit nagh as its Business Person of of the Year award, which went of the Year award, which went

Gloria Cavanagh is named Saipan Chamber of Commerce Business Person of The Year at the gala held Saturday at the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan. She is surrounded by former BYOP winners and colleagues from Pacific Island Club Saipan where Cavanagh works as general manager.





LOCAL

The first home at Mihaville to be fueled by solar power kicks off the NMHC Solar Project.

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NATION

President Donald Trump's lawyers plunges into his impeachment trial defense.

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WORLD

An outbreak of desert locusts in Kenya has affected Somalia and Ethiopia.

PAGE 17



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2 allegedly used someone else's debit, credit cards

Two men, including one allegedly wearing a wig to hide his identity, purchased several items worth \$1,577 from different stores on Saipan using the credit and debit cards of another person.

Korey Marok Leon, 19, and Steven Roman Tudela, 25, were arrested last week for misuse of financial instruments. A \$20,000 cash bail was imposed each on the defendants.

According to police detective Jeffrey I. Norita, police officers responded to LJ Market in Gualo Rai last Jan. 17 after

receiving a call about a theft incident.

Norita said the complainant reported that someone was swiping his credit card and that transactions were made to purchase items from three different establishments.

The complainant said he

went to Computer Electronics in Garapan, which was the third time his credit card was swiped, where he reviewed the surveillance camera and saw a skinny man who purchased two cellular phones using his card.

The officer then reviewed

the surveillance and found that the suspect, who was later identified as Leon, was riding a white Toyota Corolla with license plate ACU-125.

The officer put out an alert to all police units to be on the lookout for the car. That same day, Jan. 17, at 3pm, another police officer spotted the vehicle and stopped it at San Jose Church.

Tudela was the driver of the car and Leon was his passenger.

wore a wig to

hide identity

victim's card

cellphones using

in buying 2

An employ- >> 1 allegedly ee of Computer Electronics was then brought to the church and positively identified Leon as the person who purchased the two phones.

Police searched the car, where they found two Ziplock baggies, including one containing a substance believe to be marijuana.

Police also found in one baggy the victim's American Express card, Bank of Guam and Bank of Hawaii cards, one of the purchased phone, and other items.

The victim said in an interview with police that he received notification last Jan. 17 through his phone, alerting him that his card was used to purchase \$289 worth of goods at Jin Li Store; the second was at Tres Marias Market for \$380; and the third for \$898 at Computer Electronics, all on the same day.

The victim said he noticed last Jan. 15 that his bag containing credit and debit cards were not in the drawer of his house in Kagman. He disregarded it, thinking he just misplaced them in his car. He said it was his Barclay credit card that was used at Jin Li Store. Tres Marias Market.

and Computer Electronics. He said his Bank of Hawaii debit card was only used at Computer Electronics.

Norita said that during their interview with Leon last Jan. 18 at the Department of Corrections, Leon admitted that he received a call from Tudela last Jan. 17 that he was on his way to pick him up from his house in San Vicente. The two went to Tres Marias Market in San Vicente. Tudela gave

> Leon a credit card that indicated the victim's name, and told him to buy cartons of cigarettes. Leon wore a wig provided by Tudela and

bought cigarettes.

The two then proceeded to Computer Electronics in Garapan, where Leon used the same card to buy two phones worth \$898.

Leon admitted that what he did was wrong, but that he was afraid of Tudela.

Leon said Tudela gave him two cards to use at Computer Electronics.

Norita said Tudela was also interviewed and confessed he rented a white Toyota Corolla from a shop along Middle Road and found several credit cards in the car.

Tudela said he used one of the cards to buy five cartons of cigarettes worth \$289.

After Jin Li Store, Tudela said he picked up Leon and both went to Tres Marias Market in San Vicente, where Tudela handed the same card to Leon to buy cigarettes.

Tudela and Leon then proceeded to the Computer Electronics in Garapan, where Leon used the victim's two cards to purchase two phones. (Ferdie de la Torre)







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House to ask OPA to review **Torres docs**

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com REPORTER

With records about Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' official expenses now with the House of Representatives, the minority bloc is set to review the documents, as the preparations roll for an inquiry whether there were any incidents of misuse of government funds.

In an interview with Saipan Tribune, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the minority will begin reviewing the documents, to assess what they requested under the Open Government Act and what they have actually received.

"We also want to reach out to the [Office of the] Public Auditor for assistance in the review. And, then we'll be engaging with our professional staff. We have our fiscal analyst here who has said that he could participate in the review as well," she said.

According to Sablan, the minority will be doing their own review, highlight issues that they would find, and prepare a report.

Sablan added that they are also participating in the committee investigation as members.

She stressed that the governor deserves due process. "I know that members of the community are already saying we should do an impeachment, but...to be fair, if we are serious about giving the governor due process, and I know from the minority's side, we are, and if we want to do a thorough inquiry, we can't have some endgame in mind, whether it's impeachment or criminal referrals for prosecution, or anything like that."

In a separate interview last Friday, Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), who is with the majority bloc at the Legislature, assured that "we look forward to working with" the minority bloc.

The Department of Finance handed over Torres' financial records to the House of Representatives last Jan. 22.

Blanco said the House Ways & Means Committee has yet to receive their copy of the documents. "I spoke to the Secretary of Finance this morning just a while ago and he said they're also prepartee, we do have two minor- ours for the committee." ing our files. I'm looking for- ity members. So we're going Ways and Means Commit-

ward to it the soonest. For the to review theirs, and they're also going to help us review

Blanco added that the committee is going to look

into the documents and

questionable documents to the authorities, "whether it be [attorney general] or the into. That's the plan."

would pass on any found OPA, and they will decide whether that would warrant further review or looking













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US

From Page 1

to pay for it - not just because they want their child to have a passport.

Any baby born in the U.S. is automatically a citizen under the 14th Amendment. The only exception is the children of diplomats.

"Closing this glaring immigration loophole will combat these endemic abuses and ultimately protect the United States from the national security risks created by this practice," said White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham in a statement.

"It will also defend American taxpayers from having their hardearned dollars siphoned away to finance the direct and downstream costs associated with birth tourism. The integrity of American citizenship must be protected."

The move only affects women from countries whose citizens need tourist or other visas to enter the U.S.

It does not affect those women travelling from countries which are part of the visa-waiver scheme—which includes the UK, Australia,

Japan, South Korea and almost all of the European Union.

The practice of traveling to the U.S. to give birth is fundamentally legal, although there are scattered cases of authorities arresting operators of birth tourism agencies for visa fraud or tax evasion.

And women are often honest about their intentions when applying for visas and even show signed contracts with doctors and hospitals.

The State Department "does not believe that visiting the United States for the primary purpose of obtaining U.S. citizenship for a child, by giving birth in the United States—an activity commonly referred to as 'birth tourism'—is a legitimate activity for pleasure or of a recreational nature," according to the new rules, which took effect last Friday.

But there is a question over how officers would determine whether a woman is pregnant to begin with and whether a woman could get turned away by border officers who suspect she may be just by looking at her.

Consular officers don't have the right to ask during visa interviews whether a woman is pregnant or in-

tends to become so. But they would still have to determine whether a visa applicant would be coming to the U.S. primarily to give birth.

The rules also do not define how the women have to prove the medical need to travel, opening one potential loophole for those wealthy enough to pass the test that they can cover the cost of giving birth.

While the new rules deal specifically with birth tourism, the Trump administration also has turned away pregnant women coming over the U.S.-Mexico border as part of a broader immigration crackdown.

Those women were initially part of a "vulnerable" group that included others like small children who were allowed in, while tens of thousands of other asylum seekers have been returned over the border to wait out their cases in Mexico.

President Donald Trump's administration has been restricting all forms of immigration, but Trump has been particularly plagued by the issue of birthright citizenship—anyone born in the U.S. is considered a citizen, under the Constitution. The Republican president has railed against the practice and threatened to end it, but scholars

and members of his administration have said it's not so easy to do.

And critics of the new policy say it could put pregnant women at risk.

Birth tourism is a lucrative business in both the U.S. and abroad. Companies take out advertisements and charge up to \$80,000 to facilitate the practice, offering hotel rooms and medical care. Many of the women travel from Russia and China to give birth in the U.S.

The U.S. has been cracking down on the practice since before Trump took office.

"An entire 'birth tourism' industry has evolved to assist pregnant women from other countries to come to the United States to obtain U.S. citizenship for their children by giving birth in the United States, and thereby entitle their children to the benefits of

U.S. citizenship," according to the State Department rules.

There are no figures on how many foreign women travel to the U.S. specifically to give birth. The Center for Immigration Studies, a group that advocates for stricter immigration laws, estimated that in 2012 about 36,000 foreign-born women gave birth in the U.S. and then left the country.

"This rule will help eliminate the criminal activity associated with the birth tourism industry," according to the rules. "The recent federal indictments describe birth tourism schemes in which foreign nationals applied for visitor visas to come to the United States and lied to consular officers about the duration of their trips, where they would stay, and their purpose of travel." (AP)

TORRES

From Page 1

FBI agent on the defense team can be a big help.

Dotts said the FBI has a way of investigating cases that is much different from how local law enforcement works. Thus having a former FBI agent helping the defense will educate the defense on the methods the FBI uses, he said.

"For example, two or three FBI agents will interview a nervous witness brought into the Horiguchi Building who has no attorney, and they may get answers that are not true," he said.

The lawyer said agents, who are only human, want to win their cases and they can lead witnesses into giving answers the agents want to hear.

"The interviews are not recorded so you never know what was actually asked or how it was asked," he said.

Dotts said witnesses, who are humans too, often want to make the agent happy, or are afraid, and will say things they think will help the agents.

Also, the FBI may not have interviewed all the witnesses or gathered all the documents.

"Having a former FBI agent assisting the defense may help the defense find all the evidence so a complete story can be presented at trial," the lawyer said.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from the FBI, but FBI Honolulu media coordinator/special agent Jason K. White said the bureau has no comment.

Dotts represents Legend Realty on

limited matters, usually on specific real estate transactions and with regard to maintaining their LLC.

A source said the FBI also had sought documents from Dotts' law office in connection with the ongoing investigation.

The office of Legend Realty in western Garapan was among several offices searched last November by FBI agents.

Other offices searched by the FBI were Torres' on Capital Hill and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's finance and human resources office at Marina Heights Business Park Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Sources said Torres has also hired New York-based Patrick J. Smith, a former federal prosecutor in the CNMI, as his counsel relating to the ongoing FBI probe.

CORONAVIRUS

From Page 1

ing who were exhibiting symptoms reminiscent of 2019-nCoV and who had recently traveled to an affected area. However, all five patients' illnesses were confirmed to be the flu and not 2019-nCoV.

In a short interview with Jeremy Sasamoto, CHCC's Department of Public Health immunization program manager, he said the rumor may have gotten started when a group of Asian individuals in face masks entered CHC

Health workers who attended to the patients later said that the group was seeking treatment for what they suspected was 2019-nCoV. Word later spread through the hospital and reached the public within hours.

Although only the Center of Disease Control and Prevention can screen for 2019-nCoV, CHC is capable of determining, through tests, if a virus is just a normal flu virus.

The CHCC statement assured that medical protective masks are not needed to be worn when entering CHC and CHCC will alert the public if any precautions such as this need to be taken by staff or the public.

"If there is a case of significance within the CNMI, you can be assured that CHCC will notify the community," said CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis.

Separately, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres called for a meeting yesterday with officials from CHCC, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Marianas Visitors Authority, CNMI Division of Customs, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to discuss the ongoing surveillance of coronavirus, which has caused a public health emergency in China.

"When the news broke of the coronavirus, the CNMI increased locally-driven airport surveillance protocol, in which we observe and identify suspected travelers from China and the Asia region and implement follow-up questionnaires and mitigate any transmission on island. Contrary to rumors, we do not have any cases of coronavirus in the CNMI," said Torres. "The CNMI is the first place in the Pacific to implement this approach, which is accom-

plished in partnership with CHCC, Customs, and CBP."

The World Health Organization does not consider this to be a global public health emergency yet, but Torres said the CNMI has already "taken active measures" to be prepared.

Torres wants to assure the community that CHCC has been working hand-in-hand with CPA, Customs, and CBP in screening travelers to assess potential signs and symptoms before leaving the plane.

"As we continue to receive information from the WHO and CDC, we will make a formal determination with our tourism and airline partners on all flights from the Asia region," he said.

Torres says that public health is the CNMI's No. 1 priority and CHCC and the CNMI's first responders have confirmed that they are prepared and continue to strengthen response plans.

"This is not a moment for panic or alarm. It is a moment for being vigilant and to continue following proper hygiene for yourselves and your families," Torres said.

CHCC continues to advise all residents to maintain healthy hygienic practices and wash their hands to avoid leaving germs in areas commonly used by family members or the public.

For anyone who has traveled to Wuhan City in Hubei Province, China, or any of the affected areas, or have been in close contact with an infected individual from any of these areas, and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, seek medical care right away.

CHCC would also like to advise the public, before going to the doctor's office or emergency room for suspected coronavirus symptoms, to call ahead and tell them about recent travels and symptoms.

CDC has already confirmed two cases in the United States: first in Seattle and the second in Chicago. WHO and CDC continue to monitor the outbreak and will continue to assist state and territorial health agencies around the country.

For more information, contact the CHCC PHEP surveillance unit at (670) 234-8950. For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook and Twitter or check out their website at www. chcc.gov.mp.

CAVANAGH

From Page 1

to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation; and the Saipan Young Professional of the Year award, which went to Nicole Babauta.

The gala also saw the installation of the Chamber's new officers and board members officiated by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho. They are Velma Palacios of IT&E, Alex Sablan of Century Insurance, Michael Johnson of Deloitte & Touche, Marcia Calvo of Calvo's Insurance, businessman Joe Guerrero, Ty Pauling, Food & Beverage director of Hyatt Regency Saipan; and businessowner Glenn Hunter.

In accepting the Chamber recognition, Cavanagh said the award is special, especially for someone who is not originally from Saipan.

"...I am originally from Guam but I have adopted the CNMI or the CNMI have adopted me. ...To me, this awards award means you love me. ...Being an outsider and coming here and adopting this culture... I love living on Saipan and so does my husband. This is my home...the CNMI is my family," she said.

Cavanagh, who is general manager of Pacific Island Club Saipan, is also vice chairperson of the Marianas Visitors Authority, chairwoman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, treasurer of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., and secretary of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy committee.

Cavanagh, a veteran in guest relations, whether in tourism or hotel operations moved to Saipan 10 years ago to run the operations of the Marianas Resort and Spa, owned by Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd.

Chamber president Velma Palacios and other Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. officers, attested to her commitment and focus on the CNMI's growth. Palacios jested that Cavanagh was willing to go down on her knees for the CNMI to prove Cavanagh's drive to put the CNMI in the right direction.

Cavanagh explained that this happened during a meeting with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials in Washington, D.C. "... My colleagues laughed at me when I actually said I would go down on my knees to beg on behalf of the CNMI to make sure that we have the workforce that the we need," she said.

Cavanagh shared the nomination with The Shack, The Airstream and Go Hydro owner Glenn Hunter and J.C. Tenorio Enterprises vice president Roman "Bo" Palacios.

According to Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo, the nominees and winners were chosen and voted for by all Chamber members. "With the exception of Business Person of the Year, winner was selected by former BPOY winners," she said.

Last Saturday's gala theme was "Roaring '20s" and was hosted by stand-up comic and radio personality Santi "Big Boy" Sablan.

The name of the gala was changed from "Installation Dinner" to "Business Person of the Year Gala" to focus on the BPOY nominees.

Borja prevails in indigenous language essay competition

level,

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Chacha Oceanview Middle School's Danyana Borja was

this year's overall winner in the essay competition of the third annual Chamorro Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies cultural

arts performance last Saturday at Saipan Southern High School.

place, topping other essay

the United States, because

there's many unilateral actions

by the United States that raise

these issues," Rabauliman

added. "We want to assess the

situation and allow the future

generations to anticipate the is-

sues and make those decisions

Borja took overall first

high school. In the middle school level

contestants in her grade

elementary,

of the essay competition, Borja topped Chacha's Tyara Reann Cruz and Chadlen Heaven Murphy who won second and third places, respectively, in the Chamorro essay category while Francisco M. Sablan's Sebastian Saito took first place in the Carolinian category.

At the high school level, Borja topped Marianas High School's Mark Pangelinan.

In other results, MHS' Jaime Navarro took first place overall in the poster competition, Tanapag Middle School won the storytelling competition, Rota High School's Dawno Agbayari won in the oratorical division, MHS won the dual language proficiency competition and the solo singing competition, Koblerville Elementary School topped the children's choir competition, FMS won

in the choral reading competition, and Hopwood Middle School won the cultural chant/dance and the contemporary dance competition.

According to Jonas Barcinas, CCLHS program manager, this year's event was very successful.

"We were able to complete a one-day competition versus having it for two days or five days like the years before. We are improving every year and this time we were able to complete all events by 12:30pm," he said.

Barcinas said the competition is intended to encourage students to speak their native tongue as well as showcase what they have learned in school.

"[The competition] is an educational platform to give our students the opportunity to showcase what they have learned from their teachers. This will also help build a positive mindset of our students and parent community to see that we are also making the effort to organize programs that can help engage students to learn and better understand the values and importance of speaking their native languages: Chamorro and Carolinian," he said.

This year, the CCLHS program saw about 400 student-participants from over 20 schools under the Public School System.

Political status commission to reach out to villages

By IVA MAURIN

iva maurin@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Second Political Status Commission will be traveling all over the CNMI to seek the community's position on the current status of the Commonwealth's political union with the United States.

Commissioners will be holding public meetings with people to discuss the different types of political statuses, to hear from people their views on the positives and negatives of being a Commonwealth, and to gather public opinion on whether they want to remain in a political relationship with the United States or not.

"We're basically going to hear from the community and all the islands, Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and just get a feedback of what people feel so far with our relationship with the United States. Then, we gather all that information." commissioner Rosemond B. Santos said.

"We also present the types of government entities, whether we want to be an independent government, whether we want to be something like FSM [Federated State of Micronesia], or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or Palau, or a state," she added.

The commission, according to Public Law 19-63, has the

political relationship of the NMI and the United States and determine whether the people of the CNMI are still in favor of being in a political union with the U.S.

It is also their role to examine actions taken by the U.S. that contradict and violate the provisions and spirit of the Covenant.

"We're going to be presenting the political statuses for our people to decide, and critical to that is: What are the advantages and disadvantages of each political status? Of course, we encourage everybody to do their own due diligence," commissioner John O. Gonzales added.

The commission will start their public outreach on Rota tomorrow, Jan 28, 6pm at the Rota Mayor's Office in Tatachog, and then the following day, Jan. 29, 6pm at the Rota Courthouse in Sinapalo. Outreach for Tinian will be on February.

"There's going to be very, very important, immediate questions," commission vice chair Frank Rabauliman said. "Why are we changing the political status now? Why are we wasting time on all of these and stuff?'

"We've been a Commonwealth for the last four decades, and I think it's important that, once in a while, we

decisively and be informed and as educated citizens.' Aside from the meetings and hearings in the villages, the commission will also be putting up a website, to serve as an strategic portal for people on island and for citizens abroad to provide their input.

The commission would submit its recommendations and final report to the CNMI Legislature for review and approval prior to submission to the Commonwealth Election Commission, who would then present the political status options to qualified voters.

The first Marianas Political Status Commission was formed back in 1972, which carved the Covenant in 1976 that officially made the CNMI a self-governing U.S. territory.





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By JUSTINE NAUTA

justine_nauta@saipantribune.com REPORTER

In a first ever for the Commonwealth, this last week of January is being observed as CNMI Customs Week, to focus the spotlight on the role of Customs in protecting the CNMI's borders while generating revenue from all incoming and outgoing cargo.

Customs officers, members of the legislature, and others were present last Friday to witness Gov. Ralph Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declare Jan. 26 as International Customs Day

and the week of Jan. 27 to 31 as CNMI Customs Week at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

"Today's a great day for us," said Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan). "It's an honor for me to take part in this proclamation, for the first ever CNMI's Customs Week. I want to thank our Customs officers and personnel for coming together and dedicating themselves to protecting our Commonwealth and our borders."

House floor leader John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who himself is a former Customs

officer, cited the recent interception of contraband in praising the role that Customs play in preventing the entry of illegal goods.

Sablan also expressed gratitude to the Customs officers who will be doing outreach in schools from Jan. 29 to Jan. 31 as part of CNMI Customs Week.

"One thing that Customs is not short of is the support of our political leaders, my boss, and many private citizens and businesses." said Customs director Joe Mafnas. "When they see something out there, they give us a tip or tell us, and

our various partners within law enforcement. That's what motivated us to ensure that we protect our borders."

Customs officer Jesse Ogo, who is a second-generation officer at Customs, said he grew up within the environment of the seaport and airport, and that his first-hand knowledge of the work made him fall in love with his job.

"There are a lot of things that I enjoy about my job, but most importantly is the pride that comes from knowing that my team and I have first dibs on the protection of our island," he said.

Division of Custom officers and representatives pose with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, fourth from right, after the proclamation signing last Jan. 24 at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

Hocog, Mereb join Rota scholarship board

Former Rota Municipal Council chair George O. Hocog and Rota Mayor's Office press secretary Ivan Takamine Mereb Jr. have been confirmed as board members of the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation.

The Rota Legislative Delegation unanimously confirmed their appointments in a public hearing last Jan. 22, Wed, at the Rota Mayor's Office in Songsong.

The two were among the three appointees named by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig in October last year.

The third appointee, retired Rota resident Fidelia M. Mendiola, withdrew.

"These new appointees will be replacing board members exiting because of resignation, term limit, and medical reason," Atalig stated. (Iva Maurin)



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PUBLIC NOTIC

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 27, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Department of the Navy regarding the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)**

More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the following website: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019 DEC 13 U N465 1492 CNMI-DCR M-trn-ltr-16-DEC-19-TO-MS.-REYES.pdf and

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019 DEC 10 U N465 1467 ENCL-TO C NMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-10-DEC-19.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for thirty (30) days, comment period began on January 7, 2020 and will end on February 7, 2020. This comment period has been extended to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-20-009

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-20-009, Workers" Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than February 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST). Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 31, 2020 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vivian Santos, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email vivian.santos@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

> GARY P. CAMACHO **Executive Director**

MANNY BOYER SABLAN Purchasing Administrator

\$1.3M OK'd to extend Aggreko contract, pipeline installation

\$7.3M released for temporary power supply, overhaul of 3 power engines

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has approved the CUC management's request for the transfer of \$1.3 million needed to pay for a 90-day extension of the original \$1.5 million 90-day contract that CUC has with Aggreko.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said the

board approved the release of the \$1.3 million for use to extend the Aggreko contract and also to install a fuel pipeline.

Aggreko has been hired to provide a temporary electric power supply while CUC's engines are down for overhaul and repair.

Of the \$1.3 million, \$43,000 will be allocated to install a fuel pipeline from CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base to the nearby Aggreko engines, Camacho said.

Camacho said that board members discussed the Aggreko extension and the pipeline during an executive session presided over by board chair Miranda V. Manglona last Thursday morning.

He said the board member then voted for the release of the \$1.3 million. All board members were present at the meeting, except for Matthew Holley.

Camacho said the transfer of the money has something to do with addressing the emergency electric power supply on Saipan for lack of revenue due to non-payment from large accounts such as the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s.

With Thursday's board decision, the board now re-

leased a total of \$7.3 million for the emergency repair and overhaul of power engines at Power Plant 1 and to pay for the Aggreko temporary electric power supply.

Last November, the board approved the release of \$6 million from CUC's \$12 million restricted account reserved to buy a power engine to replace power engine number 8 at CUC's power plant.

The \$6 million was intended for the \$1.5 million 90-day contract with Aggreko; \$300,000 repair of engine number 6; \$2 million for overhaul of power engine number

5; and \$2 million for overhaul of power engine number 7.

CUC's original plan was, once the Federal Emergency Management Agency reimburses CUC for the money it spent to enable it to recover from Super Typhoon Yutu, that \$6 million taken from the restricted account will be replenished and that any used funds from that amount will also be returned to the restricted account.

Camacho brought up the importance of having the 90-day extension for Aggreko during the board meeting last Jan. 16. The meeting was

continued last Thursday.

Under the contract, Aggreko was supposed to start producing power last Jan. 15. The next target date was last Saturday, Jan. 25.

Saipan Tribune was still verifying with CUC yesterday whether Aggreko already started producing power last Saturday.

At the Jan. 16 board meeting, Camacho said the original request they had put in for Aggreko was 90 days because that was the assumption from the power plant that the overhaul of the two power engines would be done in 90 days.

Man arrested after vehicle pursuit

A police officer was doing routine patrol along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau last Jan. 22, when the officer noticed a red pickup truck with no front license plates. The officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop but the vehicle sped south toward the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero intersection. The officer radioed dispatch.

The vehicle went into Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and drove over the center median as it made its way toward Beach Road. While traveling north on Beach Road, the vehicle picked up speed, overtaking vehicles by driving on the shoulder lane, and veering in and out of the oncoming lane. Police units radioed dispatch to report that the vehicle was failing to yield as it was traveling at about 80 mph through Beach Road. While on Beach Road the vehicle drove on the oncoming southbound lane and driving head-on toward a school bus before merging back onto the northbound lane. The vehicle continued driving recklessly on Beach Road, then made its way onto Middle Road and proceeded to head north.

At the China Town/Middle Road intersection, the vehicle forced its way between two vehicles that were stationary, and continued driving north. The vehicle hit the raised concrete curb, damaging its front steering axle as it continued diving north but at a much slower rate. The vehicle then tried to turn into the Mihaville Estates when it ran into the raised concrete sign. The driver got down from the truck and fled on foot, attempting to outrun the police officer. The officer caught up with the suspect and identified him as Juan D. Tydingco from previous cases. Tydingco admitted to officers that he was under the influence of methamphetamine since earlier that morning. Tydingco was then brought to the Commonwealth Health Center before being transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. (PR)



Draw your dream, Drive the future.

Toyota Dream Car Art Contest invites children from all corners of the globe to share ideas about the future of mobility by drawing their dream cars.

Create your "Dream Car"

REQUIREMENTS

- Use any standard drawing medium (coloring pencils, crayons, paints or markers).
- Paper Size: 11"(h) x 17"(w).
- The color, material, and shape of paper can be chosen freely.
- Artwork with a thickness of over 5mm will be disqualified.
- Collage or cutout pictures will be allowed for plain drawings, excluding ones making other artworks dirty or requiring special care in handling.
- Unacceptable pieces:
- CG artwork created on a computer or similar device will not be accepted.
- Collaborative artwork drawn by multiple individuals will also not be accepted.
- From a copyright perspective, simulant artworks / trademarked characters will also not be accepted.

ENTRY PERIOD

Deadline February, 28, 2020

CONTEST THEME

AGE CATEGORIES

Under 8 years old 8 - 11 years old 12 - 15 years old

INQUIRIES Atkins Kroll

Administration Office of Toyota Dream Car Art Contest Phone number: (671) 648-8415

E-mail address: athena.ramos@akguam.com

LOCAL CONTEST

• Submissions will be accepted no later than February 28, 2020 at: AK Toyota

#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose Saipan, MP 96950

Awards: Gold, Silver, Bronze, Special award

WEBSITE

For more information, scan to log onto www.AKsaipan.com/dreamcar



PMB 122 Box 10000 MP96950 Email :artmancorporation@gmail.com Tel # : (670) 234-8079 / 287-8079

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ART MAN CORPORATION



Call 234-5911
Showroom Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Whale research presentation on Saipan

The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center has studied cetaceans (whales and dolphins) in the Marianas since 2010. In 2015, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration began studying humpback whales off Saipan in winter months (January-March) to determine if they are just passing through or actually mating and giving birth in the area. NOAA also wanted to learn where the whales go when they leave the Marianas, and how they are connected to other humpback whale populations within the North Pacific.

The Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education and Environmental Management, or APASEEM, has in-

vited Marie Hill to present a talk titled "Mariana Archipelago humpback whales: Links to other western North Pacific breeding and feeding grounds" at 6pm on Jan. 26 at the American Memorial Park on Saipan. This is an update to an ongoing project in the Marianas, which may provide a clue to solving a scientific mystery. (PR

Veterans Affairs Resource Fair set

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is having a Veterans Resource Fair hosted by VA Pacific Islands Health Care System acting director Kevin Amick and Honolulu Veterans Benefits Regional Office director Sergio S. Chao.

This is to share information and resources, hear feedback from veterans and to answer questions on VA health care and benefits.

The Veterans Resource Fair on Saipan will take place on Feb. 4, 2020, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe near the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The Listening Sessions on Tinian and Rota will be held on the following dates and time:

- Tinian: Feb. 5, 2020, from 10am to 12:30 pm at the Tinian Library.
- Rota: Feb. 6, 2020, from 10am to 12:30pm at the Mayor of Rota's conference hall.

All veterans, their families, survivors and any organization(s) or individual(s) who works with or on behalf of veterans are

encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. **(PR)**

MHS PTSA meeting set

The Marianas High School will have a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting this Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020, at 6pm in the school cafeteria.

Ortizo named to dean's list at University of Delaware

NEWARK, Delaware—Michael Roy Ortizo of Saipan has been named to the University of Delaware's dean's list for the fall 2018 semester.

To meet eligibility requirements for the dean's list, a student must be enrolled fulltime and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester. (PR)

SHRM membership meeting set

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter will have a general membership meeting and webinar training on Feb. 7, Friday, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The meeting starts at 9am with the induction of the 2020 NMI SHRM board members.

The webinar trainer will be Fran Sepler, president of Sepler & Associates, who

is known for her pioneering work in harassment prevention and workplace investigations. Training topics:

- 9:30am–12:30pm: "Respect in the Workplace." Based on values of respect and fairness, this training focuses on skill building for employees such as: bystander intervention and giving and getting feedback
- 1:30pm-5:3pm: "Leading for Respect." Learn how to respond appropriately to concerns and complaints made by employees, focusing on the employee's perceptions of fairness and the supervisor's responsibility to respond with emotional intelligence This training includes lunch and costs \$50 for SHRM members and \$60 for non-SHRM members. Reserve your seat by contacting Roman Tudela at tudela.roman@gmail.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (PR)

Guam war claims processing center opens

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—The Guam War Claims Processing Center opened its doors last Friday, Jan. 24, 2020, at the old Hakubotan Building across

the Tamuning Post Office.

"We are so excited to finally have a center where our World War II survivors can come in so we can take care of them, just like we take care of our moms and dads, grandmothers and grandfathers," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "Our staff are eager to help and we want everyone to know that we will work as quickly as possible to process every adjudicated claim so we can pay our war survivors the money they rightfully deserve."

The Guam War Claims Processing Center will be open from 9am to 4pm. Mondays through Fridays. CHamoruspeaking staff are present to assist claimants.

The center is ADA compliant and those needing homebound assistance can contact the center during its normal hours of operation.

For more information, contact the center at 482-0792 or visit its website at warclaims. guam.gov. (PR)

Alternative contact no. for MLSC

The Marianas office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. is having trouble with its telephone lines. If you call and cannot reach the MLSC at its regular numbers, try 235-6102. Thank you for your patience and understanding. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS **FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020**

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,323,285.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$867,556.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$386,617.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$69,112.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2020.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning November 14, 2019 . You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhcgov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by March 31, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 31, 2020, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

February 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian February 13, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

Jesse S. Palacios Corporate Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: January 24, 2020 • **CLOSING DATE:** February 11, 2020 **TIME:** 10:00 A.M.

| NMHC JVA No. | Positions: | Salary: |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2020-001 | Chief Financial Officer (CFO) | UNGRADED |
| | | \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00-per annum |
| 2020-002 | CDBG-DR Project Manager – | UNGRADED |
| | In-House Announcement | \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00-per annum |
| 2020-003 | CDBG-DR Compliance Manager – | UNGRADED |
| | In-House Announcement | \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00-per annum |

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. You may also access the application online at www.nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/JESSE S. PALACIOS

Corporate Director

80-plus judicial officers expected at 3-day conference

The Pacific Judicial Council and the American College of Trial Lawvers will jointly host the2020 Pacific Judicial Conference on Jan. 27-29 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The conference focuses on trial and appellate practice including the prosecution and defense of public figures, scientific evidence, search and seizure, and other topics. Over 80 justices, judges, and attorneys from across the Pacific will participate in the threeday conference.

The ACTL is a professional association of trial lawyers from the United States and Canada. Established in 1950, it is recognized as the leading trial lawyers organization in both countries. The association is dedicated to maintaining and improving the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice, and the ethics of the legal profession. Primary objectives of the association include enhancing the independence of the judiciary, developing jury trials, maintaining respect for the rule of law, heightening access to justice, and providing fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings.

The 11 ACTL judges and attorneys who will be conducting the training have traveled to the CNMI at their own expense. A similar training was held in Palau in 2015 and Guam in 2018. "We welcome and thank the

ACTL presenters and PJC delegates. The training will undoubtedly be informative and beneficial for justices, judges, and attorneys," said Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro.

The PJC assists with educational development programs of the judiciaries in American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands. and the Republic of Palau. It is funded through the Technical Assistance Program of the Office of the Insular Affairs in the Department of Interior and administered by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. (PR)

Water service interruptions this week

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for the areas of San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag on Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 8am to 4pm, due to a leak on a 4-inch gate valve located on Chalan Arnold Road north of Pau Pau Beach in San Roque.

Meanwhile, there will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 from 8am to 4pm for portions of Lower Dandan and As Lito, specifically for customers along Shell Dandan to customers behind the Joeten Dandan Building.

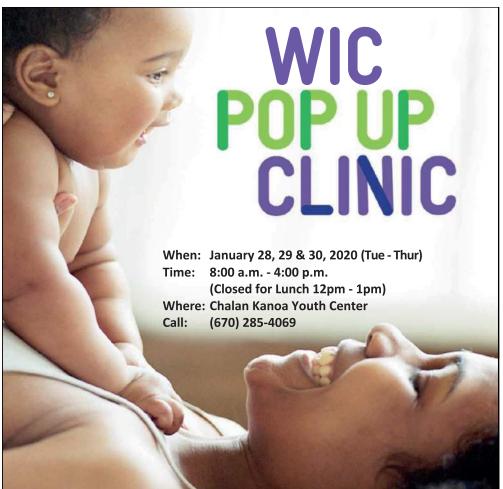
The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is to allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 8-inch mainline located on Chalan Monsignor Martinez near Saipan Travel Inc. in Lower Dandan. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon tafter.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utili-

Happy Market in As Lito and ties Corp. will be making the necessary repairs and customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water service soon after. Motorists are also advised to proceed with caution when traveling through the area.

Motorists are advised to proceed with caution or to take an alternative route when traveling through the area as the northbound lane will be closed.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). (PR)



WIC provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding guidance to more than 3,000 moms and children in the CNMI. If you are pregnant, a caregiver, or a mom with children under 5, you can get the right personalized support for you and your family.





POSITION TITLE: Hotel Manager - Saipan Vegas Resort

REPORTS TO: General Manager

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Hotel Manager is responsible for all aspects of operations at the hotel and provides support to the General Manager of Saipan Vegas. Directs and coordinates hotels activities to obtain optimum efficiency and economy of operations and maximize full potential with a balanced focus on hotels mission, guests, employees and owner's satisfaction.

HOTEL MANAGER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDES:

- · Assist the General Manager in his day to day operations.
- Assigns duties to HOD's and observers' performance to ensure adherence to hotel policies and established operating procedures.
- · Provides training to staff and HOD's.
- · Acts as the hotels public relations director and promotes the property within the hotel industry, local community and trade associations.
- Monitor the Guest feedback on Trip advisor, OTA's etc. and hotels GSTS and RSTS surveys.
- Receives and resolved or assists the General manager in resolving guest complaints and service
- Selects or assist in the selection of hotel staff and completes all new hire paper works.
- Review employee performance and conducts personnel actions such as disciplinary actions and terminations
- Ensures, the accounting department, maintains accurate records including monthly profit and loss accounts and cash flows, guest floor limit, AR Ageing reports, Direct billing etc.
- · Assisting General Manager during staff meetings or conducts the morning HOD meetings in the absence of General Manager.
- Adheres to all company procedures and regulations as well as standard operating procedures.
- Ensure full compliance to Hotel operating controls, SOP's, policies, procedures and service standards.
- . Ensures the objectives and goals of Saipan Vegas Resort and property owners work together to achieve brand positioning and success.
- Builds owner loyalty through proactive communication, setting and managing expectations and delivering solid business results.
- Assist GM in key property issues including capital projects, customer service and refurbishment.
- · Assist General Manager in wage scale surveys and ensures employee wages are followed by the company and industry salary guidelines.
- Performs daily, weekly and monthly property inspections.
- · Ensures property, grounds, physical plant and work areas maintained to standard.
- . Builds strong working relationships and communications with hotel staff, HOD's and other departments to ensure maximum operating effectiveness and fulfilment of special event need.
- Cover shifts is all departments as scheduled by the General Manager.
- · Monitor maintenance progress and FF&E (Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment) conditions and provide status report to GM.
- · Audits on par stock on all areas to make sure that all required hotel supplies are ordered and stocked in advance of need.
- Performs sudden audits on rooms and other operating areas.
- · Provide effective leadership to hotel team members.
- · Ensure hotel staff is provided with uniforms and name tags, and upholds property grooming standards.
- Ensures effective, timely and accurate communications flow with regards to hotel policies and procedures.
- Assist the GM in in all aspects of business planning.
- Must be available 24/7 in case to respond to any guest or employee emergencies.
- Corporate client handling and take part in new client acquisition along with the sales team whenever required.
- Assisting in residential sales as and when required and development with strong sales prospects.
- · Respond to audits to ensure continual improvement is achieved.
- All Other duties as assigned by the General Manager or Management.

PREREQUISITES:

Strong management skills, ability to appropriately assign or delegate work and authority to others in the accomplishment of goals. And provide coaching, advice and assistance as required. Available to work when needed, including weekends, holidays, and nights.

A university degree or diploma in hotel management or a related field with experience in opening, managing or re-positioning a hotel with clear track record, will be highly regarded or appropriate relevant hotel experience. Experience in financial accounting, personnel supervision and problem resolutions is an added advantage. Excellent computer system skills.

EXPERIENCE:

At least 3-5 years' experience in the hospitality industry, with front of house and hotel operations experience.

SALARY:

\$3,000 - \$5,000 monthly

ANTICIPATED DATE OF EMPLOYMENT:

February 1, 2020

You may submit your resume and application to Mr. Gus Noble via e-mail to: gusnoble@hotmail.com.

Opinion



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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

From China to O'Hare: Healthy fear of the Wuhan coronavirus

'Hare International Airport is now part of the global medical response to a mystery virus that has infected hundreds of people in China. Anyone flying to the United States from Wuhan, the origin point of the illness, will be routed through one of five airports, including O'Hare, for a health screening.

There are two ways for governments and individuals to react to the spread of a deadly new respiratory virus: Take it seriously or take your chances. The Wuhan coronavirus can be deadly, having killed at least 18 people. Cases have been identified in China, Hong Kong and several other countries, including the United States.

Perhaps this outbreak will dissipate, but wishful thinking isn't a strategy. The risk exists that any such respiratory virus, if not contained, may spread aggressively. The great fear is pandemic, an uncontrolled eruption of cases that could sicken thousands, or millions. The influenza pandemic of 1918, which began as a strain of bird flu, killed an estimated 675,000 Americans and 50 million people worldwide.

The 21st century is a new era of viral concern and response, in which serious communicable diseases can spread globally due partly to the ease of air travel. Ebola and bird flu outbreaks were dangerous, especially the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014-16.

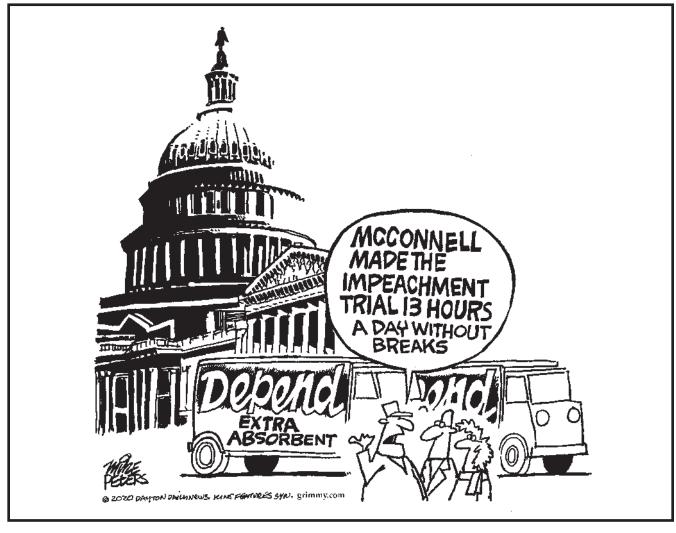
The closest comparison to the Wuhan coronavirus is the SARS epidemic of 2003, which also originated in China. SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, is believed to be an animal virus that was transmitted to humans mainly through civet cats, a Chinese delicacy sold to restaurants at exotic animal markets in southern China.

The Wuhan coronavirus outbreak apparently originated in December in a seafood and meat market in Wuhan. Viruses can mutate, allowing them to jump from animals to humans. It's the strains that can transmit from human to human that present unknown dangers. Some strains of the coronavirus cause a cold. Others may kill. But the World Health Organization confirms human-to-human transmission of this virus is occurring.

The lesson from SARS is that quick, coordinated action by governments and health officials is critical. China failed that test at the outset of SARS. The Communist government's initial instinct was to cover-up news of the illness, which aided the spread. Eventually, China got serious in the way authoritarian governments easily can: It ordered lockdowns of villages to help eradicate the virus. Overall SARS infected about 8,000 people worldwide, killing about 775.

The coronavirus is gaining strength at a vulnerable time: Chinese New Year, the season in which hundreds of millions of people travel to their hometowns to celebrate. The Chinese government appears to be ramping up its response: It ordered a virtual lockdown of metropolitan Wuhan, home to 20 million people. Metropolitan Chicago's population is roughly half that size, more than 9 million. Imagine the mayor and governor closing O'Hare and Midway, blocking expressways, shutting down the CTA and Metra and telling

See WUHAN on Next Page



Is this how democracy dies?

If you were a juror in a trial and the judge said there would be no evidence and no witnesses because the defendant didn't want them, you would be nonplussed.

Well, you aren't one of the Senate's 53 Republicans, who voted six times against demanding White House documents and witnesses that could prove whether or not the president broke the law.

Donald Trump has been impeached (indicted) by the House on charges of withholding nearly \$400 million in congressionally mandated, vitally needed military assistance for Ukraine. Ukraine is fighting for its life against attacks and invasions by Russian tanks. To receive its aid, Trump insisted Ukraine announce a sham investigation of Trump's possible 2020 rival, Joe Biden.

When the House began investigating, Trump refused to let his people testify and refused to hand over any pertinent documents.

Trump stands charged with attempted illegal bribery to benefit his reelection effort and obstruction of Congress. The Senate, which must decide in a trial whether to remove Trump from office, so far is refusing to call witnesses or ask for administration documents.

Maybe the senators are cranky after hours of no cellphones and zero campaigning, a diet of milk and water (no caffeine), a ban on passing notes and talking to each other, napping while stuck in their seats hour after hour listening to House members demand a fair trial.

Let's get this straight—every Senate Republican voted against seeing documents or listening to people involved tell what they know. Conviction or acquittal in an impeachment action is the most important vote senators will ever take. Sooner or later they will be held accountable for potential damage to the Constitution. Why don't they see that?

We are witnessing an astonishing and sadly historic event: Republicans are following Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell in his vow to conduct the trial however the White House wants. McConnell, by the way, has a 34% approval rate in his state of Kentucky but is obsessed with keeping power. He himself once flouted the law by refusing to hold confirmation hearings on a Supreme Court nominee.

All 100 senators vowed by sacred oath to dispense impartial justice. And then, on a strictly partisan vote, 53-47, they voted against a fair trial.

Is this how democracy dies?

Our country has held three impeachment trials. There have been no convictions. (Richard Nixon resigned when fellow Republicans convinced him he would be impeached and convicted

By ANN MCFEATTERS

Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.



of obstruction of justice.) But this is the first time that senators who took an oath to be impartial said at the outset of the trial they already had made up their minds and don't need the facts—as the world watches.

Is this how democracy dies?

Why have Republican senators been afraid to vote in favor of seeing 89 White House, State Department and Pentagon documents which would shed light on what Trump did? They haven't even wanted to listen to eyewitnesses such as former national security adviser John Bolton and acting White House Chief of Staff Mark Mulvaney. Mulvaney told reporters that military aid to Ukraine was withheld for political purposes (until a whistle-blower blew the whistle) because that's how the world works.

Once again, we ask why every single time Trump has a national security crisis, Russia benefits. Every. Single. Time.

The White House insists that Trump decides what documents Congress may see and who it may subpoena. No, he doesn't. The White House says that Trump may decide the rules of impeachment. No, he can't. Trump insists he can do whatever he wants as president. No, it should not work that way.

If a fake trial replaces the Constitution's call for a fair trial, is this how democracy dies?

The White House lawyers have been stunningly off-point and illogical in this entire process: The president is above the law. The president cannot be prosecuted for anything. Yes, he withheld legal aid from Ukraine, but it was released (after he was caught) ... and it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter that the non-partisan General Accounting Office said Trump violated the law. There basically is no such thing as abuse of presidential power because the president is all-powerful.

The votes of all 53 Senate Republicans thus far seems to mean they agree. The world's greatest deliberative body?

Is this how democracy dies?

We Americans are so justifiably proud of our form of government that we forget that there were republics before us that

See DEMOCRACY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting

of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How 'second chance' hires can boost the labor force, keep youth on track

merica's businesses are facing an unprecedented labor shortage, a drag on economic growth that risks derailing the expansion. Yet we also have a pool of millions of willing workers who are unemployed or substantially underemployed—those with a criminal record. Bringing these prospective employers and employees together

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Coronavirus stories need clarity'

am a provider in the ER at CHC. I just read two articles referencing the Wuhan coronavirus. One about hotel cancellations, and another saying MVA is still encouraging visitors. Some of the language in how these articles are written makes it sound like we have diagnosed cases here in the CNMI:

"The Marianas Visitors Authority still encourages tourists from China to visit the CNMI despite the recent outbreak of a new coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, from Wuhan, China that has left nine dead."

"Saipan is already experiencing the effects of the newly discovered coronavirus that allegedly came from Wuhan, China, according to Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands".

Please consider rewriting these articles. Please contact CHCC, as I am not an official representative, and verify there are no diagnosed cases. Then please address that there are no diagnosed cases early in the rewritten articles.

The way this is written is concerning. I worry that everyone with a cough and fever will think they have Wuhan coronavirus and overwhelm the hospital. Currently we are only suspicious of individuals who have been in Wuhan in the last two weeks who have fever, cough and flu-like symptoms, and people who have been in close contact with them.

Again, I hope you will consider removing these articles, contacting CHCC for an official update, then rewriting the articles to clarify that there are no known cases of Wuhan coronavirus in CNMI.

I appreciate your consideration.

Chris Jensen, PA-C

via email

WUHAN

From Page 10

Chicagoans they can only leave the city with special permission. Maybe China will be able to stanch the spread. But as experts warn, Wuhan coronavirus is already on the run internationally. Health officials will need to stay alert.

So should everyone else. Routine hand-washing is a good practice. If you feel sick, get appropriate care—and stay home. Even if you don't think you have Wuhan coronavirus, every cold and flu is potentially contagious.

(c)2020 Chicago Tribune

DEMOCRACY

From Page 10

perished. Let's hope senators come to their senses and ultimately insist on a fair trial.

Yes, Washington forgot about us. Angry and frustrated, many Americans decided Trump was the antidote to a rotten system. Instead, he turned out to be our worst nightmare—a vulgar opportunist using the power we gave him not for us, but to become richer, more powerful and potentially tyrannical. And then there is his undiminished servitude to Russia, our most dangerous enemy.

Is this how democracy dies? Will we let it? Remember in November.

in a profitable and sustainable way is an economic imperative.

Our work focuses on the models developed by pioneering business owners who opened their doors to workers in need of a second chance: those with a history of incarceration, addiction or other mistakes of the past. The most effective models incorporate processes for determining which candidates are truly ready for employment and then providing accommodations to help maintain employment. Their experience, and the handful of formal studies, all point in the same direction; "second chance" hires are highly dedicated workers who appreciate the opportunity they've been given and are extraordinarily loyal to their employer. The resulting combination of low turnover and high engagement delivers cost savings and productivity improvements.

"Ban the box," a policy that prohibits employers from asking upfront about criminal records, is often proffered as a remedy. However, this policy has had mixed results, unintended negative consequences and has not been tested through a full business cycle. Our own work suggests that the optimal solution relies on an employer who approaches second chance hiring with a conscious plan to support the needs associated with this demographic (e.g., a time or place to meet with a parole officer). Ban the box does little to drive this formula for success. Ultimately, second chance employers do get to the point where the "box" is an irrelevancy in the hiring process, but the key is establishing a route to that level of comfort.

For businesses that want to explore a pathway to successful, sustainable and profitable hiring of people in need of a second chance, there are a series of steps that we call, "bridging the box." For employers who want to expand their talent pool while assessing the risks of nontraditional hires, any or all of these approaches will offer benefit.

- Low risk hires: Don't immediately discard a resume because of a criminal record. Would you consider someone who made a mistake at age 18, has been gainfully employed and a contributing member of society for over five years? Many employers would, but miss the opportunity to see candidates like this if they exclude everyone with a criminal record.
- Know your felony: One of the reasons we have 19 million people with felony convictions is that we have criminalized so many activities and incentivized overcharging. A felony record may not be the grievous offense that you imagine. There are lots of things that we can rightly condemn, but that should not represent lifelong barriers to employment. Resources like the Twitter feed @CrimeADay expose the sometimes absurd breadth of the federal code, helping employers realize that a criminal record

By JEFFREY KORZENIK

Chicago Tribune

Jeffrey Korzenik is chief investment strategist of Fifth Third Bank. His forthcoming book on the business case and best practices for hiring people with criminal records will be published by HarperCollins Leadership in early 2021.



need not be an automatic disqualification.

- Connect with nonprofit partners: Every region of the country has nonprofits that work with people in need of a second chance. Local workforce boards or national organizations such as Goodwill are good places to start. Here in Chicagoland, we have a wealth of nationally recognized organizations such as the Safer Foundation, Cara and the North Lawndale Employment Network that routinely work with employers. Many smaller but equally effective nonprofits reside within our neighborhoods and in faith-based communities. Explore what services they offer to employers and how you might be able to partner effectively.
- Connect with second chance pioneers: Many areas have employers who embrace second chance hiring. Typically, they are happy to share their process. In some cases, they would even refer employers who have outgrown the available roles. These are businesses that have succeeded because they have embraced the aspirations of their employees, and they take the associated responsibility seriously.
- Review and eliminate vendor restrictions: Some employers have regulatory barriers to second chance hiring, or simply aren't yet ready to do this type of employment. These companies can still help simply by scrutinizing and loosening restrictions that may force their vendors to exclude people with records. Why should a company's internal restrictions apply to the vendor that provides landscaping, equipment maintenance or food service? Many of these restrictions were carelessly written into company policies decades ago and may no longer be justified.
- Offer amnesty: Some of the most distressing conversations I've had are with successful longtime employees who have criminal records of which their employer is unaware. They live in fear that decades-old records will come to light, triggering termination under guidelines that had been imposed years later or though the initial employer's acquisition by a new firm with different rules. For those employers who do not have regulatory barriers to doing so, offering longtime employees an amnesty is one more step toward a truly inclusive workplace.

Most business leaders I've met believe that all Americans should have the chance to succeed. "Bridging the box" offers a path to participating in the realization of this goal.

Abracadabra!

If I could wave a magic wand and have my world transform anew Oh, what places would I sail to and what things would I then do!

If I could say some incantation that would clear the road ahead I would fear no wall or obstacle on any path I tread

If some souped-up grey DeLorean could take me back in time I'd revisit my life choices make sure heart and head align

If some fountain or elixir could rejuvenate these bones I'd take better care next time around no cause for aches and groans

If some secret keystroke sequence could reboot this life I live I'd optimize for memories

LITERARY NOOK By WALT GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of over 24 books on a variety of subjects. He conducts writer workshops here on Saipan, Tinian and Guam to help others pursue and profit from their writing passion.



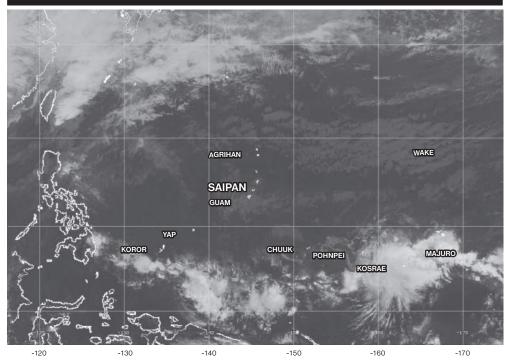
ctrl + alt + delete, forgive

If I could rub a genie's lamp and have my wishes manifest I'd wish not just for MY happiness, but that others, too, are blessed!

Wouldn't it be nice to have such a magic wand, a powerful mantra, a time machine or secret potion or magic lamp? Well, the truth is, you already do! It's your own courage, discipline combined with the magical power of goal-setting. Whatever your dreams and wishes may be, you can achieve them with the courage to start, the discipline to persist and the secret power of writing down your goals every day.

The Weather

| | 5-DAY FOREC | AST FOR SAIPA | N AND TINIAN | |
|--|-------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph. showers. showers. showers. showers. | | | FRIDAY | |
| (i): | <u> </u> | (i): | <u> </u> | - \ \disp. |
| with isolated showers. | | | | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
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| | VESTER | DAY'S SATELLIT | FIMAGE | |



PICTURE TIME: 6:20 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020 Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows an old shear line segment moving through the Marianas with mostly cloudy skies and light showers. Moderate to fresh trade winds continue across the region, with seas near 8 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESI | A | ▲ ▼°F |
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| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 86° / 81° |

| Majuro | Inunderstorms | 86° / 81° |
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| AROUND TH | E GLOBE | ▲ ▼°F |
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 77° / 66° |
| Beijing | Mostly Cloudy | 45° / 27° |
| Hong Kong | Showers | 64° / 54° |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 82° / 67° |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 46° / 37° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 75° / 54° |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 73° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 72° / 55° |
| Miami | Cloudy | 77° / 65° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 47° / 35° |
| Osaka | Showers | 61° / 50° |
| Paris | Rain | 48° / 39° |
| Busan | Mostly Cloudy | 52° / 39° |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 57° / 48° |
| Salem | Cloudy | 59° / 37° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 56° / 49° |
| Seoul | Cloudy | 48° / 32° |
| Tokyo | Rain | 48° / 46° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 50° / 43° |



Anonymous tips can now be submitted

through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at

www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIP | AN HARBOR TO | DAY FEET |
|-------------|--------------|----------|
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| 10:12 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.62 |
| 3:52 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.92 |
| 8:37 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.57 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
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| Friday | 10:51 AM | 11:18 PM | - |

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LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

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Mihaville house now has solar power



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officials from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. attend the launching of the NMHC Solar Project last Friday in Mihaville, Garapan.

>> NMHC-CUC solar power project takes off

Officials from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officially launched Friday the NMHC Solar Project by energizing the first home at Mihaville to be fueled by solar power through a net meter installed by CUC.

The NMHC Solar Project aims to assist single family households and tenants reduce their reliance on common utility consumption run by imported petroleum fuel, which translates to savings from monthly power utility payments.

"We are delighted at the promise of this latest project, which harnesses abundant year-round solar power in our islands and modernizes our tenant homes by retrofitting them to be energy efficient,



A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. lineman energizes the first home at Mihaville to be fueled by solar power through a net meter.

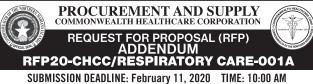
while saving them monies ing Terry Aldan, who resides that they can use for their at the first solar power enerother basic needs," NMHC corporate director Jesse S. Palacios said in congratulat-

gized home in Garapan.

In fiscal year 2018, NMHC received donations of solar panels, construction services, and related hardware totaling \$1,359,489 from Pacific Wind and Solar through a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant. The project will directly benefit 82 low-income families in the Mihaville and Koblerville housing units.

When fully activated, these tenants will benefit from:

- Approximately 70% reduction in monthly costs for power used during daylight hours. This lower cost alternative will help improve the quality of life of those families.
- At full capacity it is estimated that the solar arrays will generate approximately 450 kWh every 30 days, per
- The additional power generated will not require fuel or oil from CUC generators, providing additional CUC load capacity from an eco-friendly renewable resource. (PR)



"FOUR (4) PURITAN BENNETT 980 VENTILATORS & FISHER <u>& PAYKEL 850 HUMIDIFIER BASE & STARTER KIT"</u> INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE

CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO ${\hbox{\bf RFP's}}$ TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION. /S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856 Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Commission's main office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

PRELIMINARIES:

Call to Order Roll Call

Adoption of Agenda

D. Adoption of Minutes: December 19, 2019

A. Report by the Chairman
B. Report by the Executive Director

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

- Casino Licensee Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") Updates:
 - Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"):
 - Update on IPR's Construction
 Update on the partial opening of the Villas

 - IPI Personnel:
 - a) Resident Employment Objectives
 b) Casino License Agreement Annual Plan
 - Responsible Gaming Program

 - Compliance Committee Report IPI Financial Matters

Other Miscellaneous Matters.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on House Bill 21-11, HS1 B. Other Old Business Matters

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration and Adoption of Commission Order No. 2020-001: Order Requiring Casino Licensee to Settle Uncontested Accounts Payable.

- B. Communications from the Legislature:
 1. House Bill 21-77 "To amend the Commonwealth Code to provide for adequate regulation of the casino industry,
 - and for other purposes."

 Senate Bill 21-48 "To require reporting and accounting of the Community Benefit Fund provided in the Casino License Agreement between the CNMI Lottery Commission and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI),
- Request to Withdraw Application for the Regular Casino Request to Witndraw Application for the Regular Casino Vendor License. Yantze Corporation (Dba: Yantze Construction). Provides general construction work. Withdrawal Letter, dated 01/08/2020, from He Guo Qiang, General Manager. Provisional License expired on 12/13/2019.
- D. Notification of Issuance of Provisional Casino Vendor License (1-year):
 - 1. Junson Construction LLC. Supplies construction-related workers and construction management services. Provisional License will expire on 01/14/2021.
 - IDS Mimarlik Muhendislik Yonetim Danismanlik Ticaret Limited Sirketi. Provides construction project management services. Provisional License will expire on 01/23/2021.
- E. Other New Business Matters.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Report by Legal CounselB. Report by the CCC Audit and Compliance Division

VIII ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

/s/ Joseph C. Reyes Acting Chairman



INVITATION FOR BIDS **NMC IFB 20-0001**

GROUNDS CARE & LANDSCAPING SERVICS

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Campus Grounds Care & Landscaping Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Monday, January 27, 2020 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Email request may be sent to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

-bid conference is scheduled for February 04th, 2020 at 09:00am, Bldg P. College Conference, attendance is strongly recommended.

Bid Submissions are due no later than 10:00 a.m., February 12, 2020, at Northern Marianas College. Procurement Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho Procurement Management Office

The Northern Marianas College is a Land Grant Institution accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS **CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-002 SUBMISSION DATE: February 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"DPW Redemption Pilot Program Implementation, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL Conference is scheduled for February 14, 2020 AT 9:00 **A.M., LOCAL TIME** at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room Solid Waste Transfer Station, Lower Base,

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS** February 21, 2020. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES. KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS /S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON **ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S**

Business

Stocks around the world fell this week on worries that a new type of virus in China may ultimately hit profits for companies from Wuhan to Washington. The World Health Organization has held off on calling the outbreak a global health emergency but says it may become one.

The virus has killed more than two dozen people and infected more than 800, with the epicenter in the city of Wuhan in central China. The virus can transmit from human to human, which increases its potential spread.

WHY ARE INVESTORS WORRIED?

Past outbreaks of disease have caused sharp losses for stocks, at least temporarily. Stocks in Hong Kong lost about 10% in March and April of 2003 when the number of new SARS cases confirmed was accelerating, for example.

Besides the physical toll of illnesses and deaths, fear of disease can cause people to stop traveling, shopping and eating out at restaurants. Even if the disease stays mostly outside the United States, it can significantly impact profits for U.S. companies.

China accounted for 6% of all revenue for S&P 500 companies over the last 12 months, nearly double any other country besides the United States, according to FactSet.

"It can have broad impacts well beyond China," Procter & Gamble CFO Jon Moeller told analysts on Thursday.

WHAT U.S. STOCKS ARE GETTING HIT HARDEST?

Companies that get lots of business directly from China, particularly in the travel industry. Both Las Vegas Sands



Passengers wear masks as they walk at the Hong Kong International Airport in Hong Kong Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020.

Markets around the world are feeling the CORONAVIRUS CHILL

and Wynn Resorts get the majority of their revenue from casinos in Macao, which is on the southern coast of China. Each lost more than 8% this past week.

Airlines have been hurt by worries that the outbreak will keep customers from flying not only to and from China but across the region. United Airlines dropped 8.7% this week. It has about 5.5% of its capacity allocated to U.S-China/Hong Kong routes, more than its big rivals, according to Stifel analysts.

But the impact could be felt beyond China. Consider Hawaii. Chinese tourists are the highest-spending visitors to the state, shelling out \$349 per person per day in 2018. If Chinese vacationers stay home, U.S. hoteliers are vulnerable even if they have no locations in Asia

European luxury companies as a group get about 35% of their sales from Chinese customers, including sales made in China and in Europe by visiting Chinese tourists, according to J.P. Morgan analysts.

SO ONLY TRAVEL AND RETAIL-ORIENTED COMPANIES ARE AT RISK?

No. Wuhan is also a big industrial center in China, with

factories pumping out steel, smartphones and automobiles. That could raise costs for companies further down the supply chain.

DO OTHER RECENT OUTBREAKS GIVE A ROADMAP OF WHAT TO EXPECT?

The closest corollary to this new coronavirus may be severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, in 2002-2003, which ultimately led to 774 deaths and infected nearly 8,100, according to the World Health Organization. More than 80% of the deaths were in China and Hong Kong. Both

SARS and the latest outbreak began spreading during the month of December, ahead of the crush of travel scheduled for the Lunar New Year holiday, and travel-related stocks were among the first and hardest hit.

In general, stock markets tend to bottom with the peak in new cases during an outbreak, before rebounding within months, according to J.P. Morgan strategists.

Stocks in Hong Kong recovered all their SARS-related losses by the second half of 2003. The U.S. market was not as impacted and rose steadily for most of the year.

DOES THIS OUTBREAK LOOK LIKE IT WILL FOLLOW A SIMILAR PATH?

Experts are hopeful this outbreak may not be as severe because China is acting more quickly and forcefully.

As for corporate profits, the shift to online shopping in China could help mitigate the effects of people staying away from stores. But the move to digital life also carries risks: Social media is much more popular than it was in 2002-2003, and panic can shoot quickly through social networks.

Any sharp cutbacks in travel, though, will weigh on oil prices. China is the world's biggest driver for growth in oil demand. Oil fell 2.5% Friday.

ARE THERE ANY POTENTIAL WINNERS IN ALL THIS?

Stocks of vaccine makers initially surged on speculation that their sales could get a boost. Analysts said Novavax, a company with a market value of \$250 million, is exploring the development of a vaccine candidate for this new coronavirus. It jumped nearly 36% this week. Inovio Pharmaceuticals, which said it received a grant of up to \$9 million to develop a vaccine against the new virus, was up nearly 29%.

Those big moves may be overblown, though. Raymond James analyst Chris Meekins said in a report that he doesn't expect any U.S. government funding to address the issue anytime soon, which is what could really move the stocks.

When markets have tumbled in the past on pandemic worries, telecoms and other stocks known for having low volatility have tended to hold up better than the overall market.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Walmart tests higher hourly starting wages in 500 stores

NEWYORK(AP)—Walmart says it's testing higher wages for new hourly positions at 500 of its U.S. stores as part of an overall strategy to better empower its staff. The nation's largest private employer, which operates roughly 4,700 namesake stores in the U.S., says it will be raising the starting hourly wages to \$12 from \$11 for these new roles. These workers will be trained and empowered to develop broader retail skills. For example, they'll help solve problems like inventory issues instead of only completing tasks given to them by managers, according to Jami Lamontagne,

a Walmart spokeswoman. The moves come as Walmart, like many other retailers, is under pressure to improve customer service as it fights online behemoth Amazon.

Report: Ford to pay \$30M-plus for lawsuit over transmissions

Ford will pay at least \$30 million in a proposed settlement over a class-action lawsuit related to failing transmissions in its Fiesta and Focus vehicles. The lawsuit represents nearly 2 million owners and former owners of the cars, which had bad dual-clutch transmissions, the Detroit Free Press reported, citing court documents. In addition to

the \$30 million in cash reimbursement, there will be an easier process for people to get compensated and a simplified buyback program for defective vehicles, the report said. Ford spokesman T.R. Reid said the company believes the settlement is "fair and reasonable" and expects it to be approved during a final hearing on Feb. 28. The case was filed in 2012. (AP)

US fines Delta \$50,000 for booting off 3 Muslim passengers

Delta Air Lines is being fined \$50,000 for ordering three Muslim passengers off planes even after the airline's own

security officials cleared them to travel. Delta denied that it discriminated against the passengers in two separate incidents but agreed it could have handled the situations differently, according to a consent order released Friday by the U.S. Transportation Department. The department alleged that Delta violated anti-bias laws by removing the passengers, and ordered the airline to provide cultural-sensitivity training to pilots, flight attendants and customer-service agents involved in the incidents. In one of the cases, in July 2016 in Paris, a passenger told a flight attendant that a couple made her nervous. The woman was wearing a head

scarf, and—the other passenger claimed—the man inserted something in his phone. The flight attendant said she walked by and saw the man writing "Allah" several times while texting on his phone.

The big lesson from the Bezos hack: Anyone can be a target PROVIDENCE BL (AP)

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—You may not think you're in the same league as Jeff Bezos when it comes to being a hacking target. Probably not, but you—and just about anyone else, potentially including senior U.S. government figures—could still be vulnerable to an attack similar to one the Amazon founder and Washington Post owner appar-

ently experienced. Two U.N. experts this week called for the U.S. to investigate a likely hack of Bezos' phone that could have involved Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. A commissioned forensic report found with "medium to high confidence" that Bezos' iPhone X was compromised by a video MP4 file he received from the prince in May 2018. Bezos later went public about the hack after the National Enquirer tabloid threatened to publish Bezos' private photos if he didn't call off a private investigation into the hacking of his phone. It's not clear if those two events are related. The Saudis have denied any involvement in the purported hack.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020 **15**

Nation

Trump lawyers argue Democrats just want to overturn election

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's lawyers plunged into his impeachment trial defense Saturday by accusing Democrats of striving to overturn the 2016 election, arguing that investigations of Trump's dealings with Ukraine have not been a fact-finding mission but a politically motivated effort to drive him from the White House.

"They're here to perpetrate the most massive interference in an election in American history," White House counsel Pat Cipollone told senators. "And we can't allow that to happen."

The Trump legal team's arguments in the rare Saturday session were aimed at rebutting allegations that the president abused his power when he asked Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and then obstructed Congress as it tried to investigate. The lawyers are mounting a wideranging, aggressive defense asserting an expansive view of presidential powers and portraying Trump as besieged by political opponents determined to ensure he won't be reelected this November.

"They're asking you to tear up all the ballots across this country on your own initiative, take that decision away



The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, brought out a small group of demonstrators, including the Sieg family of Charlottesville, Va., right, at the Capitol in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020.

from the American people," Cipollone said.

Though Trump is the one on trial, the defense team made clear that it intends to paint the impeachment case as a mere continuation of the investigations that have shadowed the

president since before he took office-including one into allegations of Russian election interference on his behalf. Trump attorney Jay Sekulow suggested Democrats were investigating the president over Ukraine simply because they couldn't

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—

Democratic presidential can-

didates have roared back into

Iowa touting fresh endorse-

ments, critiquing their rivals

and predicting victories in the

caucuses that will soon launch

the process of deciding who

will challenge President Don-

Sen. Elizabeth Warren said

Saturday she was "delighted"

to pick up a coveted endorse-

ment from The Des Moines

Register. The state's largest

newspaper called the Massa-

chusetts Democrat "the best

leader for these times" and said

she "is not the radical some

perceive her to be." But War-

ren's progressive rival, Sen.

Bernie Sanders of Vermont,

predicted victory in Iowa and

ald Trump.

bring him down for Russia.

"That—for this," said Sekulow, holding up a copy of special counsel Robert Mueller's report, which he accused Democrats of attempting to "relitigate." That report detailed ties between the 2016 Trump campaign and Russia but did not allege a criminal conspiracy to tip the election.

From the White House, Trump tweeted his response: "Any fair minded person watching the Senate trial today would be able to see how

unfairly I have been treated and that this is indeed the totally partisan Impeachment Hoax that EVERYBODY, including the Democrats, truly knows it is."

His team made only a twohour presentation, reserving the heart of its case for Monday.

Acquittal appears likely, given that Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, and a two-thirds vote would be required for conviction and removal from office. Republican senators already eager to clear Trump said Saturday that the White House presentation had shredded the Democratic case.

Several of the senators shook hands with Trump's lawyers after their presentation. The visitors galleries were filled, onlookers watching for the historic proceedings and the rare weekend session of Senate.

The Trump attorneys are responding to two articles of impeachment approved last month by the House—one that accuses him of encouraging Ukraine to investigate Biden at the same time the administration withheld military aid from the country, and the other that accuses him of obstructing Congress by directing aides not to testify or produce documents.

Woman kills retired trooper, self at Chicago-area cigar bar

LISLE, Ill. (AP)—A woman fatally shot a retired Illinois State Police trooper and wounded another retired state trooper and an off-duty trooper Friday night before turning the gun on herself at a cigar lounge in the Chicago suburbs, police said.

The shooting at the Humidor Cigar Lounge in Lisle was "without apparent provocation," Lisle police said after reviewing surveillance video. The footage shows several seated people watching a big-screen television when the woman stands up, shooting 51-year-old Gregory Rieves in the back of the head and firing several rounds at two others, before shooting herself in the head, police said.

Acting Lisle Police Chief Ron Wilke later said that the woman—identified as Lisa V. McMullan, of Chicago—and the victims were "acquaintances."

"I believe they know each other, but do not believe there is any relation," he told

McMullan was found dead at the scene. Rieves, who retired from the state police in March after 25 years with the agency, was rushed to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Retired Trooper Lloyd Graham, 55, and Trooper Kaiton Bullock, 48, who was off-duty at the time, remained hospitalized Saturday with injuries that were not considered lifethreatening, police said.

"The Illinois State Police family have heavy hearts this morning," state police Director Brendan F. Kelly said in a statement. "We are mourning the loss of a retired trooper, and praying for a full recovery of both our active and retired officers. Please keep all our officers and families in your prayers in the dark and painful moment."

The shooting was contained to a single room within the building. According to its website, Humidor's Lisle location features a total of nearly 12,000 square feet (1,115 square meters) of lounge space, including public and members-only lounges.

Lisle, in the western Chicago suburbs, is just north of Naperville.

Democratic race in Iowa heats up as caucus approaches campaigned alongside Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., one of the most prominent leaders on the left.

Joe Biden, meanwhile, appeared for the first time alongside Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, who is the latest in a growing list of local politicians backing the former vice president's candidacy. And Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, sought to position himself a Washington outsider above the partisan fray.

But as the candidates set out to make their best case to voters, the volatility of the race was evident. Several candidates began their day in Washington, sitting as jurors in Trump's impeachment trial.

They will have to return to Capitol Hill early next week as the trial continues, sidelining them from campaigning during a critical period.

More fundamentally, there's no clear front-runner despite the fact that many candidates have now spent more than a year courting Iowans. A New York Times/Siena College poll released Saturday showed Sanders with a slight—but not commanding-edge in Iowa. But several polls show Biden, Buttigieg and Warren remain among the front-runners.

"There's still plenty of time for movement," said Kurt Meyer, chairman of the Tri-County Democrats in northern Iowa. "Every part of the ground game counts."

Still, Sanders returned to Iowa exuding a sense of confidence. Hundreds of supporters filled the municipal auditorium in Ames and additional voters crowded an overflow room. Earlier in the night, he told voters in Marshalltown that he had an "excellent chance to win here in Iowa" and argued that his is the only campaign that can weave broad support from voters.

"I believe that our campaign, our energy, our grassroots movement, our agenda is the approach that will speak to working people who, in many cases, have given up on politics," he said. "I think we will resonate with them. I think we have in the past, I think we will in the future."

Spacewalking astronauts plug leak, finish fixing detector

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Spacewalking astronauts plugged a leak in a cosmic ray detector outside the International Space Station on Saturday, completing a series of complex repairs to give the

instrument new life. The \$2 billion Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer could resume its hunt for elusive antimatter and dark matter by midweek.

Team members around the

world expressed relief as NA-SA's Andrew Morgan and Italy's Luca Parmitano wrapped up work on the spectrometer. It was their fourth and final spacewalk since November to revive the instrument's crippled cooling system.

"Congratulations ... the AMS pump system is now leak tight," tweeted the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, which helps run the spectrometer.

Mission Control cautioned it was too soon to declare success with the space station's premier science instrument, but noted: "It still has a good heartbeat."

Last month, Morgan and Parmitano installed new coolant pumps on the spectrometer. They went back out Saturday to check for any leaks in the plumbing.

Parmitano quickly discovered a leak in one of the eight

coolant lines—the first one he tested-and tightened the fitting. "Our day just got a little more challenging," Mission Control observed.

The line still leaked after a mandatory one-hour wait, and Parmitano tightened it again. Finally, success—the leak was gone. "Let us all take a breath," Mission Control urged. By then, the astronauts were already halfway into their six-hour spacewalk.

Asia

Virus death toll in China rises as **US PREPARES EVACUATION**



An employee sprays disinfectant on a train as a precaution against a new coronavirus at Suseo Station in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Jan. 24, 2020.

its first case, the man is his 50s who recently flew from Wuhan to Guangzhou, China, and then on to Toronto. A notice from the U.S. Em-

EIJING (AP)—

The new virus accelerated

spread in China

with 56 deaths so

far, and the U.S.

Consulate in the

epicenter of the

outbreak, the cen-

tral city of Wuhan, announced

Sunday it will evacuate its personnel and some private

citizens aboard a charter flight.

ping called the outbreak a

grave situation, and the gov-

ernment stepped up efforts to

restrict travel and public gath-

erings while rushing medical

staff and supplies to Wuhan,

The latest figures reported

Sunday morning cover the pre-

vious 24 hours and mark an in-

crease of 15 deaths and 688 cas-

es for a total of 1,975 infections.

ported five cases in Hong Kong, two in Macao and three

in Taiwan. Small numbers

of cases have been found in

Thailand, Japan, South Korea,

the U.S., Vietnam, Singapore,

Malaysia, Nepal, France and

Canada said it discovered

Australia.

The government also re-

which remains on lockdown.

Chinese President Xi Jin-

bassy in Beijing said there would be limited capacity to transport U.S. citizens on the Tuesday flight from Wuhan that will proceed directly to San Francisco. It said that in the event there are not enough seats, priority will be given to to individuals "at greater risk from coronavirus."

French automaker PSA Group said it will evacuate its

employees from Wuhan, quarantine them and then bring them to France. The Foreign Ministry said it was working on "eventual options" to evacuate French citizens from Wuhan "who want to leave." It didn't elaborate.

Also Sunday, two of Hong Kong's biggest attractions, Hong Kong Disneyland and Ocean Park, announced they were closing for the time being.

sure in line with prevention efforts taking place across Hong Kong, we are temporarily closing Hong Kong Disneyland park out of consideration for the health and safety of our guests and cast members," the park said in a statement. It said a reopening date would be announced based on the advisement of local authorities.

"As a precautionary mea-

Travel agencies have been told to halt all group tours, and

Philippine volcano alert lowered, thousands can return home

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— Philippine authorities on Sunday lowered the alert level at Taal Volcano, two weeks after it began spewing ash, steam and rocks, a move that will allow many of the more than 376,000 displaced villagers to

A popular tourist destination just south of Manila because of its picturesque setting in the middle of a lake, Taal erupted on Jan. 12. It caused no known deaths but delivered an early crisis this year for one of the world's most disasterprone nations.

"Taal volcano's condition in the two weeks ... has generally declined into less frequent volcanic earthquake activity, decelerated ground deformation ... and weak steam and gas emissions at the main crater," the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

The government's agency lowered the alert level from 4 to 3, which means there's a "decreased tendency toward a hazardous eruption." The highest level-5 alert indicates a major and much more dangerous eruption.

The agency also reduced to half the danger zone where residents have to be evacuated, from the 14-kilometer the 44,000 villagers of his (8.7-mile) radius around the volcano. Taal had last erupted 43 years ago.

"We have to be careful of Taal because of the danger it may still bring, so at the lower level, there should be heightened preparedness. People should brace for rapid evacuation," Renato Solidum, the head of the institute, said in a televised news conference.

Mayor Daniel Reyes of Agoncillo, a town along the western shores of Taal Lake overlooking the island where

the volcano lies, said he was relieved but remained concerned. Residents of Agoncillo and nearby Lemery could still not return home because of the towns' proximity to the volcano

"It's somehow a relief but we're still under a total lockdown," Reves told The Associated Press, adding all town will remain in evacuation centers.

More than 376,000 people fled to safety from ash-blanketed towns and cities in hard-hit Batangas province. Nearly half of them sought accommodation in some 500 state-run emergency shelters, mostly school and government buildings. The eruption had shut Manila's main international airport for a night due to volcanic ash, forcing the cancellation of hundreds

concern is growing over the potential impact of millions of people traveling back to the cities after the Lunar New Year holiday ends on Thursday. The vast majority of the infections and all the deaths have been in mainland China, but fresh cases are popping up.

Singapore reported its fourth case on Sunday, a 36-year-old man from Wuhan. The Health Ministry said he did not exhibit any symptoms on his flight. He developed a cough the next day, sought treatment on Jan. 24 and was immediately isolated.

South Korea confirmed its third case, according to Yonhap news agency.

In the heart of the outbreak where 11 million residents are already on lockdown, Wuhan banned most vehicle use, including private cars, in downtown areas starting Sunday. The city will assign

6,000 taxis to neighborhoods to help people get around if they need to.

Wuhan plans to build a second makeshift hospital with about 1,000 beds to handle the growing number of patients. The city has said another hospital was expected to be completed Feb. 3.

Medical workers in Wuhan have been among those infected and local media reported a doctor had died of the virus on Saturday morning. The 62-year-old physician worked at the ear, nose and throat department at Hubei Xinhua Hospital. He was hospitalized on Jan. 18 and died a week later.

Xinhua also said medical supplies are being rushed to the city, including 14,000 protective suits, 110,000 pairs of gloves and masks and goggles.

The National Health Commission said it is bringing in medical teams to help handle the outbreak, a day after videos circulating online showed throngs of frantic people in masks lined up for examinations and complaints that family members had been turned away at hospitals that were at capacity.

The Chinese military dispatched 450 medical staff, some with experience in past outbreaks, including SARS and Ebola, who arrived in Wuhan late Friday to help treat many patients hospitalized with viral pneumonia, Xinhua reported.

China shuts down more cities

The coronavirus first appeared last month in Wuhan. The vast majority of mainland China's 571 cases have been in that city.



Source: AP, BBC Graphic:Staff, TNS

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 dead, 5 injured in explosion at South Korean motel

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Four people were killed and five others were injured on Saturday in an explosion at a motel in eastern South Korea. The explosion occurred on the second floor of the motel where seven guests were using a gas stove to grill meat, said Kim Dongwoo, an official from the fire department in the coastal city of Donghae. He said four people inside the room were killed and the other three were seriously injured. The explosion also caused minor injuries to two other guests who said officials were investigating the cause of the explosion. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said the explosion could have been caused by gas leakage. Officials did not provide the personal details of those who were killed or injured.

Building collapses in Indian capital, killing 5 people

NEW DELHI (AP)—A building that was being expanded in the Indian capital

collapsed Saturday, killing five people on the main floor, were in different rooms. Kim including four students, an official said. The students were attending a coaching class on the first story of the building in New Delhi's Bhajanpur area when the roof came crashing down, fire officer Umesh Garg said. He said eight injured students were hospitalized after they were rescued from the rubble. Their injuries were not life threatening, Garg said. He said the building was having a second floor added at the time of the collapse. Authorities are investigating the cause of the building collapse.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020 **17**

World

At least 18 dead, hundreds hurt as quake hits eastern Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A 6.8-magnitude earthquake rocked a sparsely-populated part of eastern Turkey on Friday, killing at least 18 people, injuring more than 500 and leaving some 30 trapped in the wreckage of toppled buildings, Turkish officials said.

Rescue teams from neighboring provinces were dispatched to the affected areas, working in the dark with floodlights in the freezing cold, and Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said troops were on standby to help.

Hundreds of residents were left homeless or with damaged homes.

TV footage showed rescuers pull out one injured person from the rubble of a collapsed building in the district of Gezin, in the eastern Elazig province. Around 30 were believed to be trapped inside collapsed structures in Elazig province, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said. A video take at the scene shows residents running after the quake hit and emergency vehicles near a damaged building.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca, who traveled to the afflicted area together with Soylu, said 13 people were killed in Elazig, including two people who suffered heart attacks, and five others died in Malatya. A total of 553 people were hurt, including 11 who were in serious condition.

Some 30 buildings had collapsed from the quake in the two provinces, according to Murat Kurum, the environment minister.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Twitter that all measures were being taken to "ensure that the earthquake that occurred in Elazig and was felt in many provinces is overcome with the least amount of loss."

Neighboring Greece, which is at odds with Turkey over maritime boundaries and gas exploitation rights, offered to send rescue crews should they be needed.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis phoned Erdogan to offer "condolences and sympathy on behalf of the Greek people," Mitsotakis' office said in a statement.

The quake struck at 1755 GMT, 8:55 p.m. local time, at a depth of 6.7 kilometers near the town of Sivrice in

Elazig, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, or AFAD, said. It was followed by several aftershocks, the strongest with magnitudes 5.4 and 5.1.

Elazig is some 750 kilometers (465 miles) east of the capital, Ankara.

People in Elazig whose homes were damaged or were too afraid to go indoors were being moved to student dormitories or sports center amid freezing conditions.

Elazig Governor Cetin Oktay Kaldirim told NTV television that a fire broke out in a building in Sivrice, near the epicenter, but was quickly brought under control.

Interior Minister Soylu was at a meeting on earthquake preparedness when the quake struck.

The Kandilli seismology center in Istanbul said the quake measured 6.5., while the U.S. Geological Survey gave the preliminary magnitude as 6.7, and said the quake affected not only Turkey but also Syria, Georgia and Armenia.

Different earthquake monitoring centers frequently give differing estimates

NTV said the earthquake was felt in several Turkish provinces and sent people running outdoors in panic.

Turkey sits on top of two major fault-lines and earthquakes are frequent. Two strong earthquakes struck northwest Turkey in 1999, killing around 18,000 people.

A magnitude 6 earthquake killed 51 people in Elazig in 2010.



In this photo taken Jan. 16, 2020, two Samburu men who work for a county disaster team identifying the location of the locusts, are surrounded by a swarm of desert locusts filling the air, near the village of Sissia, in Samburu county, Kenya.

'This is huge': Locust swarms in Africa are worst in decades

KATITIKA, Kenya (AP)—The hum of millions of locusts on the move is broken by the screams of farmers and the clanging of pots and pans. But their noise-making does little to stop the voracious insects from feasting on their crops in this rural community.

The worst outbreak of desert locusts in Kenya in 70 years has seen hundreds of millions of the bugs swarm into the East African nation from Somalia and Ethiopia. Those two countries have not had an infestation like this in a quarter-century, destroying farmland and threatening an already vulnerable region with devastating hunger.

"Even cows are wondering what is happening," said Ndunda Makanga, who spent hours Friday trying to chase the locusts from his farm. "Corn, sorghum, cowpeas, they have eaten everything."

When rains arrive in March and bring new vegetation across much of the region, the numbers of the fast-breeding locusts could grow 500 times before drier weather in June curbs their spread, the United Nations says.

"We must act immediately," said David Phiri of the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, as donors huddled in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, a three-hour drive away.

About \$70 million is needed to step up aerial pesticide spraying, the only effective way to combat them, the U.N. says. That won't be easy, especially in Somalia, where parts of the country are in the grip of the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group.

The rose-colored locusts turn whole trees pink, clinging to branch-

es like quivering ornaments before taking off in hungry, rustling clouds.

Astonished by the finger-length insects, children dash here and there, waving blankets or plucking at branches to shake the locusts free. One woman, Kanini Ndunda, batted at them with a shovel.

Even a small swarm of the insects can consume enough food for 35,000 people in a single day, said Jens Laerke of the U.N. humanitarian office in Geneva.

Farmers are afraid to let their cattle out for grazing, and their crops of millet, sorghum and maize are vulnerable, but there is little they can do.

About 70,000 hectares (172,973 acres) of land in Kenya are already infested.

"This one, ai! This is huge," said Kipkoech Tale, a migratory pest control specialist with the agriculture ministry. "I'm talking about over 20 swarms that we have sprayed. We still have more. And more are coming."

A single swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square kilometer of farmland, an area the size of almost 250 football fields, regional authorities say.

One especially large swarm in northeastern Kenya measured 60 kilometers long by 40 kilometers wide (37 miles long by 25 miles wide).

Kenya needs more spraying equipment to supplement the four planes now flying, Tale said. Ethiopia also has four.

They also need a steady supply of pesticides, said Francis Kitoo, deputy director of agriculture in southeastern Kenya's Kitui county.

"The locals are really scared because they can consume everything," Kitoo said. "I've never seen such a big number."

The locusts eat the fodder for animals, a crucial source of livelihood for families who now worry how they will pay for expenses like school fees, he said.

His own concern about the locusts?

"They will lay eggs and start another generation," he said.

A changing climate has contributed to "exceptional" breeding conditions, said Nairobi-based climate scientist Abubakr Salih Babiker.

Migrating with the wind, the locusts can cover up to 150 kilometers (93 miles) in a single day. They look like tiny aircraft lazily crisscrossing the sky.

They are now heading toward Uganda and fragile South Sudan, where almost half the country faces hunger as it emerges from civil war. Uganda has not had such an outbreak since the 1960s and is already on alert

The locusts also are moving steadily toward Ethiopia's Rift Valley, the breadbasket for Africa's second-most populous country, the U.N. says.

"The situation is very bad but farmers are fighting it in the traditional way," said Buni Orissa, a resident of Ethiopia's Sidama region. "The locusts love cabbage and beans. This may threaten the shaky food security in the region."

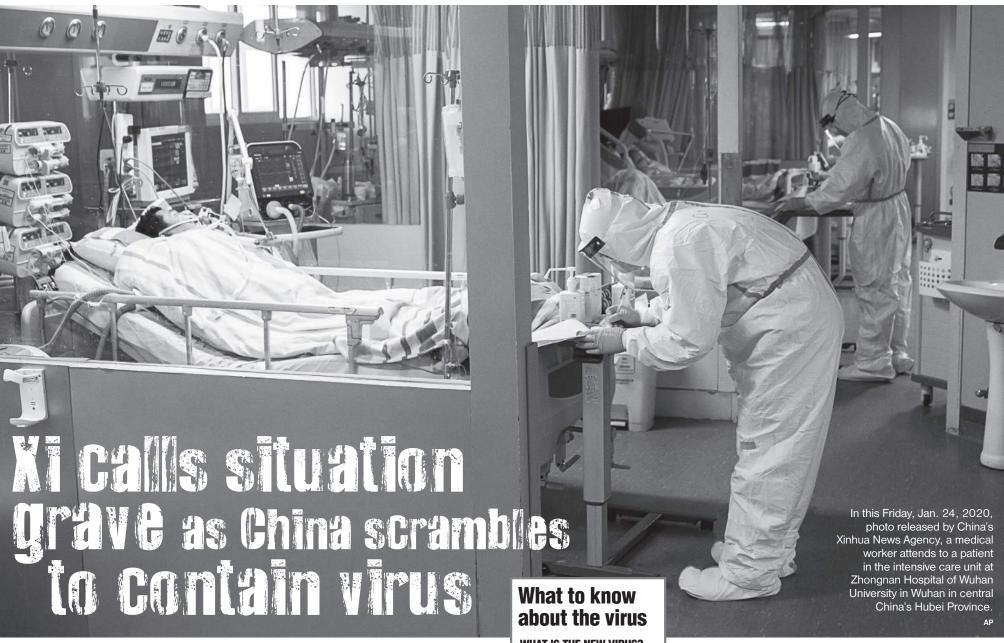
Even before this outbreak, nearly 20 million people faced high levels of food insecurity across the East African region long challenged by periodic droughts and floods.

As exasperated farmers look for more help in fighting one of history's most persistent pests, the FAO's Locust Watch offers little consolation.

"Although giant nets, flamethrowers, lasers and huge vacuums have been proposed in the past, these are not in use for locust control," the U.N. agency says. "People and birds often eat locusts but usually not enough to significantly reduce population levels over large areas."

Still, it offered recipes. One suggested seasoning in Uganda is chopped onion and curry powder. Then fry.

Focus



By KEN MORITSUGU

ASSOCIATED PRESS

hina's leader on Saturday called the accelerating spread of a new virus a grave situation, as cities from the outbreak's epicenter in central China to Hong Kong scrambled to contain an illness that has infected more than 1,200 people and killed 41.

President Xi Jinping's remarks, reported by state broadcaster CCTV, came at a meeting of Communist Party leaders convened on Lunar New Year—the country's biggest holiday whose celebrations have been muted—and underlined the government's urgent, expanding efforts to control the outbreak.

Travel agencies have been told to halt all group tours, the state-owned English-language China Daily newspaper reported, citing the China Association of Travel Services.

Millions of people traveling during the holiday have fueled the spread of the outbreak nationwide and overseas after it began in the city of Wuhan in central China. The vast majority of the infections and all the deaths have been in mainland China, but fresh cases are popping up.

Australia and Malaysia re-

ported their first cases Saturday-four each-and Japan, its third.

Canada reported its first case Saturday in Toronto. Officials said the man is his 50s and recently flew from Wuhan to Guangzhou, China and then on to Toronto on Jan. 23.

France confirmed three cases Friday, the first in Europe, and the U.S. identified its second, a woman in Chicago who had returned from China.

In the heart of the outbreak where 11 million residents are already on lockdown, Wuhan banned most vehicle use, including private cars, in downtown areas starting Sunday, state media reported. Only authorized vehicles would be permitted, the reports said.

The city will assign 6,000 taxis to neighborhoods, under the management of resident committees, to help people get around if they need to, China Daily said.

In Hong Kong, leader Carrie Lam said her government will raise its response level to emergency, the highest one, and close primary and secondary schools for two more weeks on top of next week's Lunar New Year holiday. They will reopen Feb. 17.

Lam said direct flights and trains from Wuhan would be blocked.

In a sign of the growing

strain on Wuhan's health care system, the official Xinhua news agency reported that the city planned to build a second makeshift hospital with about 1,000 beds. The city has said another hospital was expected to be completed Feb. 3.

The new virus comes from a large family of what are known as coronaviruses, some causing nothing worse than a cold. It causes cold- and flu-like symptoms, including cough and fever, and in more severe cases, shortness of breath. It can worsen to pneumonia, which can be fatal.

China cut off trains, planes and other links to Wuhan on Wednesday, as well as public transportation within the city, and has steadily expanded a lockdown to 16 surrounding cities with a combined population of more than 50 million greater than that of New York, London, Paris and Moscow combined.

China's biggest holiday, Lunar New Year, unfolded Saturday in the shadow of the virus. Authorities canceled a host of events, and closed major tourist destinations and movie theaters.

Temples locked their doors, Beijing's Forbidden City and Shanghai Disneyland closed, and people canceled restaurant reservations ahead of the holiday, normally a time of family

WHAT IS THE NEW VIRUS?

• The coronavirus family has many types that affect people.

Some cause the common cold while others originating in bats, camels and other animals have evolved into more severe illnesses such as SARS

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

• The first appeared last month in Wuhan, a city in central China's Hubei

province.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

 Symptoms of the coronavirus include fever, cough, tightness of the chest and shortness of breath.

In serious cases, the virus can cause pneumonia.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

The symptoms are treated

HOW IS IT

Source: AP Graphic: Staff, TNS

SPREADING? Many coronaviruses can spread

French automaker PSA Group says it will evacuate its employees from Wuhan, quar-

reunions, sightseeing trips and

other festivities in the country

"We originally planned to go

back to my wife's hometown

and bought train tickets to de-

part this afternoon," said Li

Mengbin, who was on a stroll

near the closed Forbidden City.

'We ended up canceling. But

I'm still happy to celebrate the

new year in Beijing, which I

Temples and parks were

decorated with red streamers,

paper lanterns and booths, but

some places started disman-

People in China wore medi-

cal masks to public places like

grocery stores, where work-

ers dispensed hand sanitizer

to customers. Some parts of

the country had checkpoints

for temperature readings and

The National Health Com-

mission reported a jump in the

number of infected people, to

1,287. The latest tally, from

29 provinces and cities across

China, included 237 patients

Of the 41 deaths, 39 have

been in Hubei province, where

Wuhan is the capital city. Most

of the deaths have been older

patients, though a 36-year-old

man in Hubei died this week.

in serious condition.

made masks mandatory.

hadn't for several years."

tling the decor.

of 1.4 billion people.

antine them and then bring them to France. The Foreign Ministry said it was working on "eventual options" to evacuate French citizens from Wuhan "who want to leave."

It didn't elaborate. The National Health Commission said it is bringing in medical teams to help handle the outbreak, a day after videos circulating online showed throngs of frantic people in masks lined up for examinations and complaints that family members had been turned away at hospitals that were at capacity.

The Chinese military dispatched 450 medical staff, some with experience in past outbreaks, including SARS and Ebola, who arrived in Wuhan late Friday to help treat many patients hospitalized with viral pneumonia, Xinhua reported.

Xinhua also said medical supplies are being rushed to the city, including 14,000 protective suits, 110,000 pairs of gloves and masks and goggles.

The rapid increase in reported deaths and illnesses does not necessarily mean the crisis is getting worse but could reflect better monitoring and reporting of the virus.

It is not clear how lethal the new coronavirus is or even whether it is as dangerous as the ordinary flu, which kills tens of thousands of people every year in the U.S. alone.

• There is a test to identify the virus, but no vaccine to prevent an infection.

with pain and fever medication

through coughing or sneezing, or by touching an infected person. SAIPAN TRIBUNE MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020 19

Health & Wellness

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How to Stay healthy On a plane as coronavirus, flu, colds raise travel concerns

By DAWN GILBERTSON

inter travel is hazardous enough with cold and flu season and the persistent threat of weather woes, and this year travelers have an added worry: a coronavirus outbreak in China. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday said it would take the unusual step of screening passengers traveling to the United States from Wuhan, China, upon arrival at three airports. Screenings for 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or "2019-nCoV," will occur over the next few weeks at New York City's JFK International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport and San Francisco International Airport, the CDC said.

The CDC said no cases have been identified in the U.S. and deemed the risk to the American public as "low."

That doesn't mean travelers should not take added precautions to stay healthy at 30,000 feet.

What's a traveling germophobe to do on a plane?

Wash your hands often, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. The CDC says it is the single most important infection control measure, and it lists it first among the guidelines for preventing the spread of disease on commercial aircraft.

Carry alcohol-based hand sanitizer (the CDC recommends at least 60% alcohol) in case water isn't nearby.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, the CDC tells flight crews and passengers.

Keep the air vents above your seat open to improve ventilation. Frequent flier and travel analyst Henry Harteveldt of Atmosphere Research in San Francisco says he points the open vent to blow air away from him on every flight.

Wipe down the arm rests and tray table with sanitary wipesand bring tissues to open the bathroom door.

Bring a face mask in case you're seated next to someone coughing or sneezing. Harte-

veldt doesn't use one but says it's become routine for many passengers following the SARS epidemic in 2003. The CDC recommends flight crews use them when dealing with sick passengers with respiratory symptoms.

Pick a window seat and don't budge. That was among the recommendations from a study published in March 2018 about how respiratory viruses spread on planes.

Ask a flight attendant if it's possible to switch seats to move away from a sick passenger. The same March study found that passengers within two seats or a row of a passenger with a respiratory illness have an 80% or greater possibility of getting sick, CNN reported.

Consult the Travelers' Health section of the CDC's website for advisories and advice on traveling around the world. You can filter by destination and the type of traveler you are, from a family with children to someone with a chronic disease.

Do your fellow travelers a favor and don't fly when you're really sick. The CDC recommends travelers stay home a minimum of 24 hours after a fever subsides. But what about those nasty airline ticket change fees (\$200 plus any fare difference is common), you say? Two potential ways around them: buy travel insurance when you book your ticket (you won't be covered if you buy it after you get sick) or kindly explain your situation to an airline customer service representative (offering a note from your doctor) and hope for a one-time waiver. Southwest Airlines is the only major airline that does not charge ticket change fees on non-refundable tickets. Travelers receive a credit to use toward a future flight (at prevailing airfares, of course.) (Contributing: Joel Shannon)

What is coronavirus, and should Americans be worried? What to know about the outbreak in China

By JOHN BACON

A new virus gaining traction in China has begun a global spread, and the world is taking notice.

China has reported more than 500 cases of the virus since December, most of them in the city of Wuhan. At least 17 deaths are blamed on the outbreak. The virus is spreading across China, and beyond: One case has been confirmed in Japan, two in Thailand, one in South Korea and one in the U.S.

A Washington state native contracted the virus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed Tuesday. The man, in his 30s, had recently visited Wuhan and was in good condition at a local hospital, the CDC said.

Many of the initial cases were linked to a seafood market in Wuhan, but Chinese health officials said this week that human-to-human transmission has been confirmed.

The Lunar New Year is Saturday, and officials are concerned that millions of holiday travelers across Asia will fuel spread of the disease.

"From a public health perspec-

tive, vigilance is necessary now," said Ogbonnaya Omenka, an assistant professor and public health specialist at Butler University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. "Community-led surveillance systems can be very effective in detecting—and nipping in the bud – infectious diseases."

WHO has published a range of interim guidance for all countries on how they can prepare for the virus, including how to monitor for sick people, test samples, treat patients and communicate risks to the public.

The disease is drawing intense attention because of its similarities to severe acute respiratory syndrome, a coronavirus that killed more than 600 people across mainland China and Hong Kong along with more than 100 other people around the world in 2002-2003.

Here's what to know about coronavirus:

What is coronavirus? What are the symptoms?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as pneumonia to Middle

East respiratory syndrome, known as MERS, and severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. Common signs of infection include fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death.

What is the world doing about it?

The World Health Organization has established an emergency committee to advise Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on whether the outbreak constitutes a public health emergency of international concern, or a PHEIC.

Declaring a PHEIC gives the WHO director-general powers to issue recommendations to other countries, such as urging them not to close borders or restrict trade with a country in the throes of an outbreak.

How is coronavirus similar to Ebola, MERS and SARS?

Coronaviruses, Ebola and SARS are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. Ebola was carried by fruit bats,

which spread it to other animals. SARS was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS from camels to humans.

Should Americans be afraid of coronavirus?

The Washington man who contracted the virus flew indirectly from Wuhan to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, CDC said Tuesday. He arrived in Washington on Wednesday, passing through the airport before the CDC and Customs and Border Protection began enhanced health screenings at several airports to detect travelers sickened by coronavirus coming into the United States from Wuhan.

Those screenings began Friday at airports in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles. Screenings were also expected to begin in Chicago and Atlanta, and all flights from Wuhan were being redirected to these five airports, the CDC said Tuesday.

"With global travel, the spread of any infectious disease is literally a plane ride away," says Robert Glatter, an emergency physician at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital.

Glatter, however, said perspective is important.

"It's more likely that you would encounter the flu compared to the coronavirus," Glatter said. "It's the flu and measles which pose a greater threat to the global community at this time."

Is coronavirus contagious? How is transmitted?

The virus can be spread from animals to people. But it also can be spread by coughing, sneezing and through close contact with an infected person or an object carrying the virus.

Is there a coronavirus vaccine? What does treatment look like?

There is no vaccine yet. Nine studies are examining coronavirus vaccine development.

"Development of vaccine is a complex process, and it's not going to be available tomorrow," said Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases.

While there is no particular treatment for the coronavirus, recommended measures are similar to those for cold, such as rest and drinking a lot of fluid. (Contributing: Grace Hauck, USA TODAY)

Life & Style



WEEK 1 OF WEINSTEIN TRIAL

Vile allegations, X-rated gifts

NEW YORK (AP)— Harvey Weinstein trundled into court this week for the start of a New York City rape trial, facing the prospect of a conviction that could put him in prison for the rest of his life.

Within the first three days of the #MeToo-era trial, the once-heralded Hollywood titan whom prosecutors described as a "predatory monster" came face-to-face with an accuser who testified in vivid detail about an alleged rape more than two decades ago. Weinstein, 67, denies the allegations.

The trial, underway 839 days after the first of his scores of accusers went public, is expected to last about a month. It has already featured several notable moments-and a few odd twists.

STAR WITNESS: 'I COULD NOT FIGHT ANYMORE

Actress Annabella Sciorra, the key prosecution witness so far, fought back tears Thursday as she told jurors that Weinstein bulldozed his way into her Manhattan apartment, shoved

her onto her bed and raped her nish Sciorra's credibility, but in 1993 or 1994.

Sciorra, now 59, said she tried in vain to get the burly film producer off her by kicking and punching him.

"I was trying to fight, but I could not fight anymore,"

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they have been victims of sexual assault, unless they come forward publicly.

Sciorra also testified that, on one occasion, Weinstein gifted her X-rated candies penis-shaped chocolates—and on another, showed up at her hotel door at the Cannes Film Festival in his underwear with a bottle of oil in one hand and a videotape in the other.

15 SECONDS

Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno closed Sciorra's crossexamination with a clip of the actress on David Letterman's talk show in which she playfully told the host that she often made up stories to enliven movie press junkets.

It seemed like a ploy to tar-

in the 1997 clip, she went on to explain that those fibs involved inane things like claiming her father raised iguanas for circuses.

After it played, she assured jurors she would never lie about something as serious as sexual assault.

Smoking gun or not, how Weinstein's lawyers got hold of the clip is a fascinating tale in and of itself.

It came not from Letterman's production company or CBS, but from a superfan who says he has taped and digitized every episode from Letterman's 33-year career in late-night television.

In a blog post, Don Giller said he turned over the video after a private investigator working for the defense showed up at his door with a subpoena Wednesday night.

Giller wrote that, after a bit of confusion, he realized, "It was the Harvey Weinstein case, and for some bizarre reason I was somehow involved in it."

Giller said he felt "awful" assisting Weinstein's defense, but felt he had no choice but to give up the recording. "Still, what I was legally compelled to do will haunt me for a long time," he wrote. "I hope Sciorra's testimony prevails.'

ANOTHER STAR TAKES THE STAND

Actress Rosie Perez made a brief appearance in court on Friday to corroborate her friend Sciorra's testimony that they had talked about the alleged rape shortly after it happened.

Prosecutors called Perez to the witness stand to show that, while Sciorra kept the matter mostly to herself for many years, she did share it with a few people close to her at the time.

Perez told jurors that, during one conversation, Sciorra started whispering that something bad had happened to her. Perez said Sciorra started crying and told her, "I think it was rape."

Weinstein's lawyers have suggested Sciorra waited so long to go public with the allegation because she was making it up.

FIRST IN A PARADE OF ACCUSERS

Sciorra is one of six accus-

ers expected to testify against Weinstein. That's just a fraction of the number of women who have come forward in recent years to accuse him of sexual assault or harassment.

The others who will take the witness stand are the two women whose allegations led to the criminal charges at the heart of the case and three other women whose testimony, like Sciorra's, is meant to show that Weinstein has repeatedly engaged in similar behavior.

The charges against Weinstein pertain to allegations he forcibly performed oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haleyi in his New York apartment in 2006 and that he raped an aspiring actress in a hotel room in 2013.

In her opening statement, prosecutor Meghan Hast told jurors that the rape accuser found a needle after the alleged assault and realized Weinstein had injected himself to get an erection.

Weinstein has insisted any sexual encounters were consensual.

DEFENSE'S FOCUS: WOMEN'S BEHAVIOR

Weinstein's lawyers are pointing to warm emails and other evidence they say show some of the women continued to interact with Weinstein after the alleged attacks.

Another part of the defense strategy has been to spin blame back on his accusers: for instance, asking Sciorra on cross-examination why she didn't flee or call 911 when Weinstein arrived.

On Friday, prosecutors called to the witness stand a forensic psychiatrist who testified at the 2018 retrial that led to Bill Cosby's sexual assault conviction in Pennsylvania, aiming to dispel myths about how victims behave in the aftermath of assaults.

Dr. Barbara Ziv said most sexual assault victims continue to have contact with their attackers, who often threaten retaliation if the victims tell anyone what happened.

Victims are "hoping this is just an aberration" and they can also end up blaming themselves, Ziv testified.

Ziv describes herself as an expert on "sexual assault victim behavior" and has studied the issue extensively, but she hasn't evaluated Weinstein's accusers.

DRAMA IN AND OUT, **BUT NO PROTESTS**

So far, Weinstein's trial has attracted a swarm of media attention, but none of the protesters who crowded outside during jury selection, chanting things like "The rapist is you!"

Dozens of cameras were there Wednesday to track Weinstein's walker-aided movements in and out of the courthouse for opening statements and the start of testimony, as reporters from as far away as Australia narrated the scene.

Inside, a group of about two dozen teens on a school trip from Cambridge, England, tried getting in on the spectacle but were turned away because the courtroom was at capacity.

Meanwhile, a different sort of drama was unfolding down the street from the courthouse that chilly morning as a crew shot scenes for the CBS series "FBI."

IN COURT, SIRENS AND SQUAWKING

Even in the dead of winter, some of the windows in the massive, New Deal-era courthouse are being kept open so the packed courtroom doesn't overheat.

That means exchanges between lawyers and witnesses are sometimes drowned out by the wail of sirens from passing police cars, firetrucks and ambulances.

"Sorry, it's very hard to hear," Sciorra said Thursday as a noisy emergency vehicle rolled by, 15 stories below.

By the end of the day, it was Weinstein himself who was taking heat for making noise.

Prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon admonished the defendant for chattering away as she addressed the judge after the jury of seven men and five women had gone home for the day.

"It is hard to hear with defendant talking so loud," she said. "It is hard to concentrate on what I'm doing, if he can stop talking for 30 seconds."

Weinstein hushed up.

LETTERMAN FAN'S

a coming-of-age drama for a performer who—despite finding mega-fame as a teenager—took some time to truly find her voice. In the film, she says she always strove to be "a good girl" and needed approving "pats on the head" for any sense of gratification.

But "Miss Americana" captures an evolution in Swift.

"It's time to take the masking tape off my mouth, like, forever," she says in the documentary.

Swift entered the theater after the lights went down to watch the film and appeared afterward on stage in a brief Q&A with Wilson. While Swift said she was a big fan of movies and documentaries, this was a new experience for her. After a standing ovation, Swift turned to Wilson and said, "So I've never done this

before. What do we do?"

One of the film's most dramatic scenes shows Swift, eager to speak out against the 2018 Senate campaign of Tennessee Republican Marsha Blackburn, meeting with her family to discuss it. Her father warns against it, citing the potential economic impact. Her publicist later advises President Donald Trump might come after her. Indeed, when Swift

posted on Instagram against Blackburn and urged young voters to register, Trump said he liked Swift's music about 25% less—a response Swift mocks in the film.

On the Eccles stage, Swift said she grew more political after after she countersued, and won, against a Denver radio DJ whom she said groped her during a meet-and-greet before a concert.

Taylor Swift shakes Sundance with revealing documentary

The normally private Taylor Swift premiered an intimate documentary Thursday at the Sundance Film Festival in which the pop star discloses a past eating disorder, chronicles her inner battle over speaking forthrightly about politics and says her victorious 2017 sexual assault court case was a dramatic turning point in her life.

"Miss Americana," a Net-

flix documentary directed by Lana Wilson, was one the most feverishly awaited films in this year's Sundance program, and the premiere at the Eccles Center in Park City on the festival's opening day was a predictably frenzied scene. Outside the theater, dozens of Swift fans sang in unison.

The film, which will debut Jan. 31 on Netflix, plays like

Agents recover stolen 500-year-old copy of Columbus letter

Federal agents in Delaware have recovered a more than 500-year-old copy of a letter penned by Christopher Columbus that vanished from an Italian library decades ago.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Delaware and Homeland Security investigators, who specialize in the recovery of stolen rare books and historic artifacts, announced the find on Wednesday. The letter is one of a few dozen authentic, reprinted copies of Columbus' original letter, which was handwritten in Spanish in April 1493 and almost im-

mediately reprinted in Latin by the Rome printer Stephan Plannck.

It's the fourth such return in recent years after U.S. investigators, tipped off by a rare books expert, determined that several authentic copies of the Columbus letter had been stolen from libraries across Europe without library officials' knowledge. Investigators called this latest find— "Columbus Letter Plannck I," which tells of Columbus' discoveries in the Americas—the most rare of the four.

The letter, which is valued at up to \$1.3 million, was found in the hands of a unidentified private collector and ordered returned to the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice, Italy, the U.S. Attorney's office said. Federal investigators, working with the Italian Carabinieri Command for Protection of Cultural Heritage, determined that the collector was "acting in good faith" in buying the letter from a rare book dealer in the United States in 2003.

Plannck's first edition of the letter, which Columbus addressed just to King Ferdinand of Spain, is exceptionally rare, the U.S. Attorney's statement explained. Plannck year. The buyer agreed to have also printed a second edition of a letter Columbus penned to both Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. They were published to spread the news of Columbus' discoveries in the 1400s.

The Venetian library acquired a copy of Plannck's first edition around 1875, and investigators think it was stolen from the library more than 100 years later, in the 1980s, the U.S. Attorney's office said. Unlike other thefts of Plannck's printed copies, this letter wasn't replaced with a forgery.

Investigators finally located the stolen first edition last

it inspected by Paul Needham, a rare book expert at Princeton University. He told CNN he was able to confirm its authenticity in part, by distinctive sewing on the folds used to bind it together. The buyer agreed to turn it over to authorities, and it will soon make its way home to the national library in Venice.

In June 2018, The United States returned to the Vatican Library another rare copy of a letter written by Columbus. In that case, the stolen artifact had been replaced with a forgery. The letter had been held of David Parsons, an Atlanta actuary who purchased it from a rare book dealer in New York in 2004, unaware it had been stolen from the Vatican, which had acquired it in 1921.

That same year, another stolen copy was returned to the Library of Catalonia in Spain, according to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement release. Also, in 2016, U.S. authorities recovered an eight-page copy that had been stolen from Riccardiana Library in Florence, Italy, and donated to the U.S. Library of Congress.

Hayek apologizes for praising controversial new novel

NEW YORK (AP)—Salma Hayek is apologizing for promoting a controversial new novel. Jeanine Cummins' "American Dirt," without actually reading it.

"American Dirt," published

Tuesday, tells the story of a Mexican woman and her 8-vear-old son fleeing to the U.S. border after numerous family members are murdered in drug cartel-related violence. The heavily publicized book has been



Hayek

praised by Stephen King and Ann Patchett among others and was chosen by Oprah Winfrey for her book club. On Saturday, it ranked No. 4 on

But numerous Mexican-American writers have called "American Dirt" an ill-informed narrative about Mexico that reinforces stereotypes. Cummins, a non-Mexican, even acknowledged in an au-

Amazon.com's bestseller list.

thor's note that she had reservations about writing the novel. She has said she wanted to personalize the issue of immigration and be a "bridge" between different worlds.

Earlier this week, Hayek

had posted a picture of herself on Instagram holding the book, and she praised Winfrey for "giving a voice to the voiceless & for loving harder in response to hate." But after facing criticism online, the Mexican-

American actress pulled back Friday, writing that she was unaware of any controversy.

"I thank all of you who caught me in the act of not doing my research, and for setting me straight, because that means you know me and gave me the benefit of the doubt," she wrote, "I apologize for shouting out something without experiencing it or doing research on it."

Ousted Grammy chief suggests awards are tainted **NEW YORK** (AP)—The

ousted head of the Grammy Awards says that music's biggest awards are tainted because of conflicts of interest that infect how certain songs and artists are nominated.

Nevertheless, Deborah Dugan said in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Thursday that she plans to watch the Grammys this weekend.

Dugan was fired only months into her job as head of the Recording Academy and this week filed an explosive complaint with the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission that alleged she was sexually harassed and that the music organization was a "boy's club" that favors friends. The academy, which has accused Dugan of misconduct, has said it has launched an investigation.

The personnel allegations had largely overshadowed Dugan's charges about the integrity of the Grammys' awards process—a huge problem given that its annual ceremony is set to be televised on CBS in three days.

"The system should be transparent and there are incidents of conflicts of interest that taint the results," Dugan said on ABC.

The academy vehemently defended its voting process in response to Dugan's complaint and interview.

"Spurious allegations claiming members or committees use our process to push

forward nominations for artists they have relationships with are categorically false, misleading and wrong," Chief Awards Officer Bill Freimuth said in a statement.

Dugan

Dugan's complaint charged that a "secret committee" that decides who gets Grammy nominations contains people with business and personal relationships with artists, and that they push their favorites ahead. The Grammy membership generally selects 20 potential nominees in categories and internal committees whittle those lists down to the five or seven eventual nominees.

She charged that an artist who was ranked 18th out of 20 in the initial song of the year process last year got a nomina-

tion and the artist was actually on the committee that decided the nominees. The same artist, who Dugan did not identify, is represented professionally by someone on the Recording Academy board.

Dugan gested the conflict was behind two notable snubs in the category, of songs performed by Ariana Grande and Ed Sheeran, although there has been some question about whether Grande had submitted her indelible hit, "Thank U, Next," for the award.

Brandi Carlile, Kendrick Lamar and Lady Gaga were among the nominees for this award, which was won by "This is America," performed by Childish Gambino.

In the category of jazz vocals, Dugan alleged that an artist nominated for an award participated in the nomination process. Again, she did not name the artist involved.

Overall, she said some 30 artists whose work was not chosen as a potential nominee by the Recording Academy membership were added to that list because they had personal or business relationships with people on the nomination committees or the Academy's board.

Dugan also said that nominations were handed out to songs or albums because the producer of the annual awards show wanted them to be performed on the show.

Freimuth said in the academy statement that while it is inevitable some on the committees full of industry luminaries will have worked with some of the artists in contention, there are "strict rules in place to address any conflict of interest."

Committees are chosen weeks before the first round entry list is created, so it is unknown whether any members will be involved in a nomination, Freimuth said. And if a committee member qualifies for a Grammy, they leave the room for listening sessions and are not allowed to vote in that category.

Mom-to-be in third trimester needs husband's help at home

EAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for eight years. He has always been independent. He works full time and goes to bars with (single) co-workers four or five nights a week and stays until I'm in bed. He also likes his weekends to be his "me" time to decompress from all the socializing he does during the week.

I have become "independent" myself in order to cope with the lack of attention and affection I have received over the years. But now that I'm 34 weeks pregnant, I'm running out of patience. Although I need my husband's help with things now-things like setting up the nursery and helping with chores around the house—he can't seem to fit it into his schedule. When he does, he ends up rushing through various tasks, and sometimes things end up in worse condition than when he started (or if I had just done them myself).

I'm losing energy in the third trimester, and I need him to understand that I physically cannot keep working, cleaning, cooking and being the patient peacemaker that I have to be when he's upset. Do you have any ideas on how to encourage him to spend more time at home and help me?

EXHAUSTED AND EXPECTING

DEAR EXHAUSTED: I'll be frank with you. Your husband isn't "independent"; he's living the life of a single man. Not only that, he doesn't even contribute the way a roommate would be expected to. Did you expect fatherhood would change him?

It appears he wants nothing to do with you or the baby. He could not be more disconnected physically and emotionally from you unless he actually moved out. If I were you, rather than ask me to help you to convince him to act like a man, I'd be making contingency plans because you are NOT going to change him and things are NOT going to improve. Sorry to be so negative, but of this I am positive.

DEAR ABBY: I love my partner, "Dana." We have been together for a year and a half. She had terrible roommates last year, so she moved in with me fairly early in our relationship. Now that Dana has new roommates, she wants to spend time in the space she pays rent for, which I think is valid.

The problem is, I can't stand one of her new roommates. I'll call him Benji. He has been rude to Dana in the past and has had violent episodes with women. I can't be around him because I'm afraid of him (I am a small woman), and he makes me feel incredibly anxious. Dana has forgiven him for everything.

She moved some of her things out of my house today for when she sleeps there, and it broke my heart. I tried communicating this to Dana, but I don't want to control the choices of a

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother. Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com



rational adult, and she isn't changing her mind. I'm scared for her. I'm sad for me. What do I do?

SLEEPING ALONE

DEAR SLEEPING ALONE: You have voiced your concerns to Dana; the choice of where she lives is now up to her. As you stated, she's a rational adult and can do as she wishes. Because you are uncomfortable around Benji, see Dana away from her place. That's all you can do.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby-Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

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By Jim Davis













Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

Happy Birthday: Preparation and organization

will be essential this year Getting everything in

order will help ease stress and encourage positive

change. The less you have to feel responsible for,

the better. An emotional change should go along

with clearing the clutter from your life. Getting tan-

gled up in someone's affairs will lead to confusion.

uncertainty, anger and disengaging from relation-

loose ends and helping someone in need. The

more you do, the better you will feel. Personal

search for new ways to use your skills. Offer

solutions, and be willing to lend a helping hand.

Something good will transpire. **DOO**

growth will change your life. **QQQ**

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Fulfill any

promises made, and get on with your day.

Stay focused on responsibilities tying up

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's up to

you to bring about change. Stop waiting

and start doing. Update your look, and

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put more

thought into job responsibilities. Don't

ships. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 26, 31, 34, 46.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



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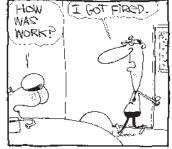
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56: Cris Collinsworth, 61.







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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch

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Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 01/27

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tic?' count on someone to do the work for 43 Sneeze you. Expect someone to try to tempt you to do syllable something that is indulgent or that could upset 44 Grow someone vou love. Be firm and say no. •• weary CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put in the 46 Actress Falco

time, and reap the rewards. Don't be shy if you have an idea or think you can solve a problem; speak up. Your input will cause some

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patton controversy, but in the end, it will lead to personal gain. OOOOO Oswalt, 51; Alan Cumming, 55; Bridget Fonda,

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put a limit on your generosity. If you overspend, you will be left short when it comes time to pay your bills. Clear thinking should take precedence over impulsive action. Handle a challenge with care. OOO

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change will lift your spirits and encourage you to participate more in your community. Networking events will allow you to show off your skills and bring about positive change. A partnership looks promising. Choose patience over aggression.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take your time, think matters through and take a wait-and-see approach regarding what's going on around you. Don't get upset over the changes someone makes. Choose to take a pass instead of offering criticism or complaints.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change of scenery will lift your spirits. Chill out, and enjoy the process of preparing for something that looks promising. Show affection, and be innovative in the way you approach a lifestyle change. Personal improvement is on the

rise. OOOOO SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful how you handle friends and

relatives. Offer sound solutions if asked for your input. Don't engage in gossip or listen to someone who is offering a speculative point of view. Truth and facts matter. 🗪

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Re-

value in revisiting an old idea or plan. Getting together with someone you haven't seen in a while will be a reminder of things you used to love doing. Romance is favored. •••• AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think

view projects, and see if there is any

and do. Following through with your plans will keep you occupied. Don't worry about the changes someone is making. Accept inevitable change, and carry on doing your own thing. Question motives if someone is too complimentary or generous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Help a cause. Reach out to someone from your past. A chance to address a matter that was left undone will encourage you to move forward. A change should be made for the right reason, not out of anger or revenge.

Birthday Baby: You are talented, suspicious and aggressive. You are engaging and idealistic.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews

Solution: 9 letter

HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDELEWORD.

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★

1/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis

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James passes Bryant on NBA scoring list in Lakers' loss

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—LeBron James was a teenager when he first met Kobe Bryant at a youth basketball camp, in awe of his idol and ears open as the Los Angeles Lakers star offered advice to the prodigy that has lasted to this day.

"I was just listening," James said. "I was just trying to soak everything up I could. I remember one thing he said was that if you want to try and be great at it, and want to be one of the greats, you've got to put the work in."

James put in the work and followed Bryant's path—from making the leap from high school straight to the NBA, to winning NBA titles, and, eventually, to playing in Los Angeles. With a driving righthanded layup, James no longer chased Bryant, he zoomed past him for third place on the NBA's career scoring list.

"I'm just happy to be in any conversation with Kobe Bryant, one of the all-time greats to ever play," James said.

With a tribute to Bryant written on his Nikes, James scored 29 points in front of a roaring 76ers' crowd, but the Lakers fell short in a 108-91 loss to Philadelphia on Saturday night.

James scribbled "Mamba 4 Life" as he chased Bryant, the five-time champion, in Philly. Fans stood with phones pointed toward the court, waiting to capture a slice of history that came when James scored the milestone basket with 7:23 left in the third quarter. James entered 18 points shy of passing Bryant, and the layup gave him 33,644 points. James stands third with 33,655. Bryant finished his career with 33,643, all with the Lakers.

"Continuing to move the game forward @KingJames. Much respect my brother #33644," Bryant tweeted.

James waved to the Philadelphia crowd that gave him a rousing standing ovation when the mark was announced by the public address announcer. The Sixers also posted a graphic of the NBA's top 10 career scorers with images of James in Lakers and Miami Heat jerseys.

The 35-year-old James entered averaging at least 25 points (25.2 ppg) for the 16th straight season and has played 44 games this season. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the NBA's career scoring leader with 38,387 points and Karl Malone is second at 36,928. James is on pace to pass Abdul-Jabbar in about three seasons. The top four scorers in NBA history played for the Lakers, who signed James as a free agent in 2018.

James passed Bryant in Philadelphia, where the retired



Mavs complete trade to acquire Cauley-Stein from Warriors

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks completed a trade Saturday to acquire 7-foot center Willie Cauley-Stein from Golden State for a second-round draft pick this year.

The Mavericks needed help on their front line after starting center Dwight Powell tore his right Achilles tendon, ending his season.

The Warriors will get Utah's second-round pick.

Lakers star was born. James, who played in eight consecutive NBA Finals, has 6,911 postseason points with Cleveland and Miami that do not count in the official total.

James' stories in the locker room on Bryant seemed to stretch on as long as his list of milestones. Like another time when he was still in high school and was gifted a pair of red, white and blue Nikes from Bryant. James wore a size 15, Bryant was a 14, but he wore the sneaks anyway. Or the way James was inspired how Bryant always found some sort of slight to use as fuel to improve. James would have a "dream come true" when he lined up side-by-side with Bryant as teammates in the 2008 Olympics as part of the "Redeem Team" and led Team USA to a gold medal in Beijing.

"There's just too much. The story is just too much," James said. "The story doesn't make sense. Make a long story short, now I'm here in a Lakers uniDallas acquired that selection in a draft-day trade with Detroit last year.

To make room for Cauley-Stein, the Mavericks waived Justin Patton, who was acquired in a trade with Oklahoma City on Friday, the same day Dallas agreed to the deal with Golden State.

Cauley-Stein missed all of training camp and the exhibition games because of a left

form, in Philadelphia where he's from."

Anthony Davis scored 31 points for the Lakers. James went 9 for 18 from the floor. missed five of six 3s, made 10 of 13 free throws and had eight turnovers. "It was just a great historic moment for our franchise, for LeBron himself," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said.

Ben Simmons had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Tobias Harris scored 29 points. The Sixers improved to 6-3 since they lost All-Star center Joel Embiid with a torn ligament on a finger in his left hand. Embiid hoped to return as soon as next week.

The Sixers led by 22 and watched that lead shrink to five in the fourth quarter. Al Horford, the underachieving free agent pickup, buried a 3 that pushed the lead back to 10 and had the packed crowd rocking. Horford hit a midrange jumper and Simmons, who lost a tooth at some point in the first half, scored on a lafoot injury. He is averaging 7.9 points, 6.2 rebounds, 1.5 assists and a team-leading 1.22 blocks in 41 games with 37 starts for the Warriors. He has scored in double figures 17 times.

The No. 6 pick in the 2015 draft, Cauley-Stein averaged 10.1 points and 6.4 rebounds with the Sacramento Kings during the 2018-19 season before joining the Warriors.

Powell, a secondary piece

yup that gave the 76ers needed

"I felt like we might be able to get some separation on Al Horford and we did," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "The game was kind of fragile at that point."

breathing room to seal the win.

Nets 121, Pistons 111, OT

In Detroit, Kyrie Irving scored 17 of his 45 points in the third quarter to overcome a doubledigit deficit and Brooklyn went on to beat Detroit in overtime.

The franchises are among many sub-.500 teams in the Eastern Conference, likely vying for the last two spots in the playoffs.

Irving made free throws early in the extra period to put Brooklyn ahead and end a five-game losing streak.

The Nets went ahead 106-104 with 38.4 seconds left in regulation when Andre Drummond was called for goaltending. Derrick Rose had an unforced turnover on the ensuing in Dallas' ill-fated trade for Rajon Rondo five years ago, has evolved into an important contributor for the resurgent Mavericks, particularly alongside second-year sensation Luka Doncic.

Dallas started the day tied with Houston for fifth in the Western Conference and well on the way to earning its first playoff spot in four years, the franchise's longest stretch without reaching the postseason in 20 years.

The 28-year-old Powell was averaging 9.4 points and 5.7 rebounds, numbers that spiked while 7-3 forward Kristaps Porzingis was sidelined for 10 games because of a sore right knee. Powell went down with a non-contact injury in the first quarter of a 110-107 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday.

possession, then made up for it with a tying layup with 1.9 seconds left.

Irving missed a 3-pointer just before the buzzer, sending it to overtime.

Rose had 27 points for Detroit, scoring more than 20 for the 12th straight game to extend his career high.

Brooklyn's Jarrett Allen finished with 20 points and 15 rebounds.

Bulls 118, Cavaliers 106

In Cleveland, Zach LaVine scored 44 points for Chicago in another dominating performance against Cleveland.

LaVine made 16 of 30 shots and had 27 points at halftime. The 6-foot-5 guard also had 10 rebounds and eight assists, falling just short of his first career triple-double.

It was LaVine's second big game against Cleveland in eight days. He scored 42 points Jan. 20, including 21 in the fourth quarter when the Bulls rallied from a 15-point deficit to win.

Kevin Love had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland. The Cavaliers have lost seven straight and 12 of 14.

Jazz 112, **Mavericks 107**

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert had 22 points, 17 rebounds and five blocks in Utah's comeback victory over Dallas.

Donovan Mitchell scored 25 points, and Bojan Bogdanovic added 23 for the Jazz. They have won 14 of their last 15.

Luka Doncic scored 25 points for Dallas. The Mayericks have dropped two of three after winning four straight.

Thunder 113, **Timberwolves 104**

In Minneapolis, Dennis Schroder scored 26 points and Chris Paul had 25 to lead Oklahoma City past Minnesota for its fifth straight victory.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 37 for the Timberwolves. They have lost nine in a row.

Kenin stops Gauff in Australian Open's 4th round



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Coco Gauff's latest history-making Grand Slam run at age 15 ended with a 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-0 loss in the Australian Open's fourth round to Sofia Kenin on Sunday.

Like Gauff, Kenin is a young — although, at 21, not quite as young — American and she reached her first major quarterfinal with the victory.

"I just needed to calm down, relax, try my best and fight," the 14th-seeded Kenin said. "I'm just so speechless."

In her previous match, the 67th-ranked Gauff beat Naomi Osaka to become the youngest player in the professional era to defeat the reigning women's champion at the Australian Open.

But Gauff did not play as well this time, winding up with 48 unforced errors, more than twice as many as Kenin's 22.

After dropping the opening set, Kenin immediately tilted things her way, breaking in the initial game of the second and never letting that lead slip away.

When it ended, appropriately enough, on a missed backhand by her opponent, Kenin dropped her racket at the baseline and covered her face as tears welled in her eyes.

"She's such a tough player. Had a tremendous 2019," Kenin said, referring to Gauff with words that also apply to Sunday's winner. "All respect to her."

Just before Gauff announced herself last season by becoming the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history and beating Venus Williams en route to the fourth round, Kenin strode onto the Grand Slam stage at the French Open by upsetting Serena Williams to get to the round of 16 at a major for the first time.

Gauff's power is impressive. One tiny indication: She slammed a forehand into the net so hard that it dislodged a piece of a sponsor's white plastic sign.

Kenin can't copy that. But thanks to her relentless balltracking and a bit of in-yourface attitude with a racket in hand, Kenin surged up the WTA rankings from 52nd to 12th in 2019 while winning her first three tour-level singles titles plus a couple in doubles.

Next up is another first-time Slam quarterfinalist: 78thranked Ons Jabeur of Tunisia, a 7-6 (4), 6-1 winner against 27th-seeded Wang Qiang. It was Wang who surprised Serena Williams in the third round.

Also advancing was last year's runner-up in Melbourne, two-time Wimble-



Bloodied but unbowed, Kyrgios sets Nadal clash in Australia again an hour later at 8-7 in

the fourth-set tiebreaker, but

he needed yet another hour

to pull out the victory when

Khachanov pushed a back-

"I was losing it mentally,

a little bit," Kyrgios said. "I

thought I was going to lose,

Along the way, he hit a

scraped his knuckles and,

after wiping the blood, was

warned for a time violation.

That set off Kyrgios, who ex-

plained why play was delayed

and said to the chair umpire,

"Are you stupid? Well, take it

There are sure to be more

fireworks Monday during the

eighth edition of Nadal vs.

Kyrgios. Even so, Kyrgios

tried to downplay the animos-

ity Saturday, saying: "What-

ever happens between us, he's

an amazing player. Arguably,

So far, Nadal holds a 4-3

backhand,

honestly.'

dive-and-roll

back then."

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Nick Kyrgios put aside a bloody hand, a hamstring issue, a tiff with the chair umpire and a resilient opponent who saved a pair of match points.

When the Australian Open third-round thriller ended after about 4 1/2 hours Saturday, Kyrgios dropped to his back behind the baseline. Guess what's next for the homecrowd favorite? A much-anticipated matchup with a familiar, but decidedly not friendly, foe: No. 1 Rafael Nadal.

Kyrgios eventually got past No. 16 Karen Khachanov 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (6), 6-7 (7), 7-6 (8) with the help of 33 aces and what sounded like an entire country of supporters in the stands.

"This is just epic, man," Kyrgios said. "Like, I don't even know what's going on."

Kyrgios initially was a point from winning at 6-5 in he's the greatest of all-time." the third-set tiebreaker, then

was a lot of nerves out there.

I didn't feel the best. I was

just, you know, too tight and

everything was flying," Kvi-

Eventually, she worked out

the issues, began to swing

more freely and took control.

6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-2.

tova said.

Kvitova's quarterfinal opponent will be No. 1 seed Ash Barty—trying to become the first Australian to win the nation's Grand Slam tournament since the 1970s or No. 18 Alison Riske of

Also on Sunday, defending champion Novak Djokovic moved into a quarterfinal against No. 32 Milos Raonic.

Diego Schwarzman 6-3, 6-4,

head-to-head edge, including a contentious win in their last meeting, at Wimbledon last July

Nadal was not thrilled that Kyrgios hit a ball right at him in that match. Kyrgios took a different sort of shot at Nadal from afar the other day in Melbourne, mimicking the 33-year-old Spaniard's series of mannerisms before he hits a serve.

"It's clear, of course, that when he does stuff that in my opinion is not good, I don't like (it). When he plays good tennis and he shows passion for this game, he is a positive player for our tour, and I want my tour bigger, not smaller. So the players who make the tour bigger are important for the tour," Nadal said. "When he's ready to play his best tennis and play with passion, (he) is one of these guys. When he's doing the other stuff, of course I don't like (it)."

Here's what Nadal loved

Saturday: The way he stepped things up during a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victory over 27th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta that required fewer than 100 minutes.

"I needed to improve," Nadal said, "and I improved."

His down-the-line lefty forehand was perfectly on-target and "impossible to read," Carreno Busta explained.

"Starting," Nadal said, "to create damage.'

He won 52 of 62 points on his serve.

He never offered his opponent a break chance.

He finished with a total of merely seven unforced errors among the match's 125 total points—and six times as many winners at 42.

"My best match of the tournament so far, without a doubt," Nadal said. "Big difference between today and the previous days."

Against "this Rafa," Carreno Busta said, "you feel a

at Wimbledon in 2016, but hasn't been to a Grand Slam semifinal since while dealing with a series of injuries in re-

"I haven't gotten to do this much over the last two years," Raonic said, "so it means a lot to me."

He has been overshadowed of late by other, younger Canadians: Bianca Andreescu, who won the U.S. Open last year at 19 but missed the Australian Open with a knee injury; and Denis Shapovalov, 20, and Felix Auger-Alissime, 19, who both were seeded among the top 20 men at Melbourne Park but lost in the first round.

At Melbourne Arena, Gauff won the toss, elected to serve and proceeded to hand over a quick break, accumulating four misses, including a backhand that hit the net tape and popped back onto her side. Kenin shouted "Come on!" while the ball was still in the air.

She soon took leads of 2-0 and 4-2, as a tentative Gauff was trying to feel her way into the match. But then Kenin faltered, a bit of inexperience revealing itself when she opted not to challenge a forehand of hers that was called out-and a TV replay showed was in.

That mistake granted Gauff her initial break chance of the afternoon, which Kenin then donated by sailing a forehand long.

Suddenly it was 4-all, and they headed to a tiebreaker, where Kenin blinked first. She had avoided even one doublefault until then, but offered up two as Gauff went ahead 5-2. used a 119 mph (191 kph) serve to set up a forehand winner for 6-2 and, after letting set points slip away, closed it when Kenin netted a backhand.

Gauff repaid the favor in the second set, offering a trio of double-faults in one gameshe finished with seven—to get broken and trail 3-1. They would play for more than two hours in total, and Gauff never got back in it.

don champion Petra Kvitova, who was down a set and a break before coming back to defeat No. 22 Maria Sakkari "From the beginning, it

the United States.

Djokovic defeated No. 14

6-4. Raonic beat 2014 U.S. Open champion and 2018 Australian Open runner-up Marin Cilic 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 with the help of 35 aces.

Perhaps just as noteworthy: The Canadian produced 30 more aces than Cilic, a big server himself.

Raonic has 59 holds in a row and won all 12 sets he has played so far en route to his third quarterfinal in Melbourne. He was the runner-up cent seasons.

49ers' Super Bowl run has similarities to 1981 title team



CLARA, Ca**lif.** (AP)—A first-time NFL

coach turning a losing franchise into a contender in his third year and getting the label of an offensive genius.

A charismatic quarterback in his third season in San Francisco emerging as a leader and a face of the franchise.

A talented defensive rookie who transformed a defense from a struggling one into a dominant unit.

What coach Kyle Shanahan, quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, defensive end Nick Bosa and the rest of the San Francisco 49ers are doing this year harkens back to 1981 when Bill Walsh, Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott led the franchise to its first Super Bowl title.

"No one expected us to be where we wound up in terms of the playoffs," longtime 49ers executive Carmen Policy said about the 1981 team. "The truth of the matter is no one expected these 49ers to be in the playoffs, either. They were hoping for a good solid year and maybe just maybe, depending on what happened in the NFC West, then sneak into a wild-card spot.

"Absolutely no one would have been able to credibly predict that we would be able to be the No. 1 seed this year. I feel that the harmony that existed in the 1981 season in the front office, on the field and in the locker room is the same as this iteration."

Both versions of Super Bowl-bound 49ers teams got there after long stretches of losing. They are two of the three Super Bowl teams to make it that far after losing double-digit games for three straight seasons.

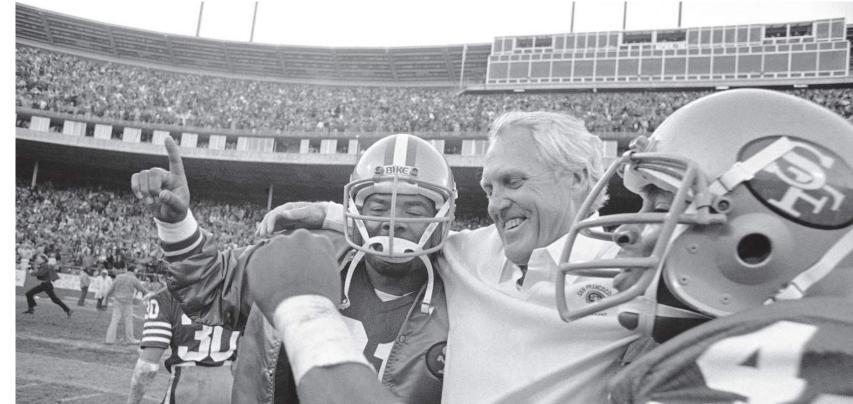
Walsh and Shanahan both took over two-win teams that had been on a coaching carousel and lacked any stability. The first steps were installing the innovative offenses both coaches became known for and instilling a selfless ethos in the locker room.

Then came the quarterbacks, with Walsh picking Montana in the third round of his first draft and Shanahan acquiring Garoppolo midway through his first season for a second-round pick.

The two quarterbacks each started only eight games those first two seasons. Montana needed time to supplant Steve DeBerg, and Garoppolo was sidelined three games into his second year by a season-ending knee injury.

But each showed enough to provide at least a little hope heading into the third year of the new regime.

"I think '81, didn't exactly sneak up on us," Policy said.



In this Nov. 29, 1981 file photo, San Francisco 49ers coach Bill Walsh is hugged by 49ers back Walt Easley, left, and 49ers back Ronnie Lott after beating the New York Giants 17-10 to clinch the division title at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

Miller believes in Lock, goes back to basics to sack Mahomes

DENVER (AP)—Take the word of a Pro Bowl pass rusher who's expended a lot of energy chasing him around: Patrick Mahomes is the best QB in the business at the moment.

Still, Broncos standout Von Miller will be siding with San Francisco over Kansas City in the upcoming Super Bowl.

Sorry, Chiefs fans, Miller believes in the 49ers and their vaunted defense more than Mahomes and that speedy offense.

It's a rivalry thing.

"I can't go with the Chiefs," said Miller, who's predicting a 28-24 win for the 49ers. "They're in the division."

Miller's putting Mahomes and the rest of the league on notice, too. He's going back to the basics this offseason to gain another step to his already quick pass-rushing abilities. His game plan: Run hills and stairs in San Francisco to

"Once Joe started in 1980, that

was actually thinking of quit-

ting after the first year. That's

how bad it got. During the be-

ginning of the second year he

was having some problems,

like, 'Whoa, what's going on

here? Do I have this in me?'

But then Joe took over at the

quarterback position and there

was a little bit of a spark. Then

prepare for his 10th season.

"I'm attacking things like I'm back in college, getting ready for the draft and the combine," explained Miller, who's teaming up with USAA and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to award a member of the military, along with their guest, a trip to the Super Bowl. "I'm going back to what I know makes me a great player. That's acceleration, that's endurance and that's getting back in the weight room. Those three things helped me be the type of player I am. I'm getting back to it."

At the Pro Bowl this week, he's been taking a young generation of pass rushers under his wing and teaching them his tricks of the trade. Asked why he's giving away his trade secrets, Miller quoted a saying popularized by the Spider-Man series: "With great power comes great responsibility," Miller mused.

"I just feel like that's what I'm supposed to do," said Miller, who has company for the Pro Bowl game in Orlando, Florida, on Sunday with teammate Courtland Sutton recently added to the roster. "All the great pass rushers before me, they helped me out in the things I use in my game today. It would just be wrong not to give back information that I know that would make them better players. It's what I'm supposed to do."

Mention Miller's current quarterback and he instantly gushes. He's a big fan of Drew Lock, the second-round pick who started the last five games as the Broncos went 4-1 to finish out a 7-9 season. The team recently hired a new offensive coordinator in Pat Shurmur to work with Lock.

"I thought he was going to be good without a new offensive coordinator. And now they're bringing in all these guys to help him be successful?" Miller said. "The sky's

the limit for him.'

Lock's top trait? His moxie. "Whenever you have a confident quarterback out there balling and doing all the great stuff he does, everybody feeds off that," said Miller, who finished with eight sacks last season, his lowest total since 2013. "It gets everyone excited."

Denver needs that sort of swagger given the rise of Kansas City. The Chiefs are poised to rule the AFC West for seasons to come behind Mahomes.

"Probably the best quarterback in the league right now," Miller said of the 2018 AP NFL MVP. "They're going to score points. They're going to score points and get into the end zone. That's a fact. You have to score points."

Miller will be taking some

company to the Super Bowl in Nicholas Lopez, a corporal in the United States Marine Corps from 2005-2013. The Grain Valley, Missouri, resident—and Broncos fan—will bring along his mother. USAA has coordinated similar efforts with other NFL players.

"To give back the smallest thing to these veterans, it means the world to me," Miller said.

Here's how Miller sees the Super Bowl playing out: San Francisco efficiently running the ball and building a 28-17 lead. The 49ers bottle up Mahomes and the high-powered offense behind a defensive front that includes Nick Bosa, Dee Ford, Arik Armstead and DeForest Buckner. The Chiefs score late before San Francisco runs out the clock.

"If that's right," Miller said with a laugh, "I'm going straight to Vegas."

was winning 17-14 against the the rest of the story."

The 1981 Niners lost only of the previous seven Super one more time the rest of the season, beating the Cowboys again in the NFC title game thanks to the most famous play in franchise history, The Catch, and then finishing it off with a Super Bowl win over Cincinnati.

> This year's version will need to do the same against the Kansas City Chiefs to make the comparison work to be the last team standing.

'That's when you feel really special," Lott said. "Even right now the 49ers know this isn't a special year unless they win."

That's the kind of impact was a little spark there toward Bosa made on this year's verthe end of that season. Bill sion as the No. 2 overall pick, recording nine sacks and turning the unit into a fearsome one. Then the victories started

mounting. The 1981 team won seven in a row following a 1-2 start and this year's version started the season 8-0.

"When you beat certain teams you feel pretty good about yourself," Lott said. "We beat the Steelers early in the year and we felt pretty good about ourselves. We beat the Cowboys and we felt pretty good about ourselves. You only measure when you have a chance to beat certain teams. This year, for this team, I think early on they beat certain teams and they got really confident and the defense continued to grow. They kept getting better and playing faster. They're probably the toughest defense in the league right now."

Shanahan has likened a win in October at the defending NFC champion Los Angeles Rams as having the same kind of impact that the victories over Dallas and Pittsburgh had 38 years ago.

For Policy and then-owner Eddie DeBartolo, who grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, it Steelers, who had won four Bowls that really signaled the Niners had arrived.

"You came from that part of the country, you didn't even think of beating the Steelers in Pittsburgh," Policy said. "All can go further than we ever dreamed this year. You know

of a sudden the San Francisco 49ers beat the Steelers in Pittsburgh and we beat them at their own game. We were physical, we were ready. We started looking at each other and we were almost afraid to say it out loud, but it was kind of like we

we had the draft." The Niners upgraded their defense when they drafted Lott eighth overall. As a rookie, he had seven interceptions, with three returned for touchdowns.

Shirley's Coffee Shop beats PIC; Saipan Vegas arrests skid



Shirley's Coffee Shop followed up its nail-biting win against Island-

er Rent A Car last week with a 98-86 trashing of Pacific Islands Club Saipan in the open division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League continued last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Dennis Mendiola lorded it over the smaller Pacific Islands Club players early and often, as the Shirley's Coffee Shop center fired 7 points in the opening quarter to give his team a 21-20 lead.

Burly forward Matthew Duenas and former national player Ed Diaz joined in the scoring in the second in support of Mendoza as Shirley's Coffee Shop opened up the first of many double-digit spreads and led by 10 points, 44-34, at the half.

Pacific Islands Club longtom artist James Abuy tried to rally his team back in the third, firing 10 points, but Mendiola and Duenas continued to pile



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Vegas' Mico Usi was named best player of the masters division game last Thursday in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League.

up the points in the period and Shirley's Coffee Shop entered the payoff period on top by 18 big points, 77-59.

It was all over but the shouting as the fourth quarter turned into an extended garbage time as Shirley's Coffee Shop cruised to the dozen-point victory.

It was the second win in five outings for Shirley's Coffee Shop, which was led by best



Shirley's Coffee Shop's Dennis Mendiola was named best player of the open division game last Thursday in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League.

player of the game Mendiola's 17 points, while Duenas added 16 in support. Abuy paced the 0-4 Pacific Islands Club with his game-high 22 markers.

In the masters division ear-

lier in the evening, a grieving Mico Usi towed Saipan Vegas to an 83-70 victory against Pacific Marine. Usi, who recently lost his father in the Philippines, scored 21 points

to lead Saipan Vegas to its first victory after six games.

Usi scored 14 points bridging the second and third quarters to allow Saipan Vegas to erase a 15-21 deficit after the first quarter and lead 39-31 at the half. While Pacific Marine managed to make a game of its in the fourth quarter, Usi's teammates had his back to guarantee the victory. The loss was Pacific Marine's seventh in eight games in the 40-andover caging.

First Game

Saipan Vegas 83 – Usi 21, Cortez 21, Bisano 16, Park 13, Barreto 8, Maplas 2.

Pacific Marine 70 – Isip 20, Flores 16, Soriano 13, Guilas 12, Manangan 5, Culunzag 2. Scoring by quarters: 15-21, 39-31, 56-53, 83-70.

Second Game

Shirley's Coffee Shop 98 -Mendiola 17, Duenas 16, Flores 13, Lifoifoi 11, Lisua 8, Dela Cruz 6, Sablan 6, Diaz 5, Aranda 5, Pelisamen 4, George 4.

PIC 86 - Abuy 22, Norita 16, Castro 14, Ma 12, Dan 8, Tolentino 5, Sublemente 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-20, 44-34, 77-59, 98-86.

SCS TEACHER

From Page 28

Coming in second overall to Vander Wal and first among the male competitors was Shuji Kuroda with splits of 19:47 for the swim and 44:00 for the run. Savita Sikkel and Claire Devey rounded out the top 3 in the women's division with splits of 20:29 and 46:32 and 22:58 and 49:33, respectively.

For the men, following Kuroda to the finish line were Taiyo Akimaru and Jacoby Winkfield with swim and run splits of 18:21 and 47:04 and 20:12 and 47:07, respectively.

In the relay, the trio of Tiana Cabrera, Jinju Thompson, ad Kuu Nishimura—known collectively as SIS Geckoswas the lone entry in the mixed division and breezed



The trio of Tiana Cabrera, Jinju Thompson, ad Kuu Nishimura-known collectively as SIS Geckos-was the lone entry in the mixed division of yesterday morning's 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run and breezed through the race in lightning speed 14:13 in the swim and 38:59 in the two 5K runs.

through the race in lightning speed 14:13 in the swim and

38:59 in the two 5K runs. The swim portion of the 5th

Aquathlon & 10KM Run was held in the waters off Kilili Beach, while the run portion started at the Kilili Pavilion

and continued north toward the turnaround point at Monika's Gallery.

A total of 20 athletes and one relay team took part in the run-swim-run component of the 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run, which was organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI and sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Kanoa Resort. The results of the 10K run will be published in tomorrow's edition of the Saipan Tribune.

TRAC's 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run was the second leg of their series leading up to the 2020 Tagaman Triathlon. The first was their Duathlon event held last Dec. 21 in Paupau Beach. The last of the series will be the Sprint Triathlon set for Feb. 29 that would involve a 750m swim, 20-km bike, and 5-km run.

DECADE-OLD

From Page 28

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, said the Ada Gymnasium Mural Project falls under the Public Arts component of the Recovery and Art Healing Grant Program.

Recovery and Art Healing Grant Program aims to unite the artists and the community through public visual arts. Public arts will also serve to enhance the beauty of the indigenous and diverse cultures in the CNMI through murals and paintings.

Artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who are interested in submitting a proposal must be registered with CCAC, must submit a copy of their valid business license, have a DUNS number, be registered with the System of Award Management (SAM), and must adhere to the specific terms and conditions of the grant set forth by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). In addition, the following items must be included in their proposal: proof of residency, completed grant application, detailed budget with narrative, draft design of their mural

idea with a short description of their concept, timeline for their project, and sustainability plan.

Deadline to submit proposals is on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020 at 4pm. All proposals must be submitted to the DCCA-CCAC office on Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, via hand delivery or mail at P.O. BOX 5553 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950. Proposals may also be submitted to CCAC executive director Parker Yobei at parkeryobei@ gmail.com.

The Ada Gymnasium Mural Project is made possible through the Recovery and

Art Healing Grant Program-Public Arts component funded by the National Endowment for the Arts through Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture. For more information about the project or how to submit your proposal, call 322-9982/3.

The original mural at the Ada Gym that depicts athletes in various sporting events was created local artist Luis Ogo in 2006 in time for the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan.

Like the upcoming Ada Gymnasium Mural Project, the original project by Ogo was also sponsored by the Council for Arts and Culture.

The Ada Gym as well as the entirety of the Oleai Sports Complex will also undergo refurbishment with funds coming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

DCCA also submitted last Dec. 20 a request for a grant of \$18 million to \$20 million to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to renovate the Ada Gymnasium and remake it into a "world-class" sporting complex as well as a cultural center, with a 2020 deadline if the grant is approved.

POWER-UP

From Page 28

2-1. They are made up of Isaac Balbin, Raylyn, Ian Kaniki, Lawerence Laniyo, Rotsed Fabian, Kirro Williams, Melvin Menchor, and Able Amu.

This year's 2020 Rocball tournament originally had 10 teams and they played in a round-robin, three-game elimination system. A team that lost three games was eliminated. The names of the teams were GTA (Get That Ace), Strykers, The Aces, Power-Up, Infinity War, WBI (We Beat It), Wanpipty, Riot, Laly Four, and Play 5.



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James passes Bryant on NBA scoring list in Lakers' loss

Page 24



Kenin stops Gauff in Australian Open's 4th round

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Power-Up annexes Rocball championship

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ower-Up upended Stryker in a three-game sweep to the win the 2020 Micronesia Rocball Championship last Thursday at the Marianas High School.



Power-Up outscored the Strykers in two point serves, 33-16, and in 3-point goals, 5-2, to dominate the best-of-five championship for the

CNMI's indigenous sport of Rocball.

"Power-Up is a very spirited team of players. They have a positive attitude and support each other in every game I watched them play," said Rocball founder James Feger after the title matchup.

Nilo Calimay of Power-Up was named the MVP for the championship series after he scored 20 aces, 2 kees, and a goal for a total of 47 points. The rest of the championship team is made up of six boys and two girls—Calimay, Jerico Castro, Wency Castillo, Madellen Narciso, Ariel Moises, Futima Monterubio, Jasper Perez, and Daniel Park.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Power-Up pose with their championship trophy after winning the 2020 Micronesia Rocball Championship last Thursday at the Marianas High School. Power-Up swept Stryker in their best-of-five championship series.

In Rocball's mixed games if a team doesn't have a girl registered to play, they can only play five boys.

Power-Up went undefeated during the regular season this year and won the runner-up slot against the Veteran Rocball players last year. The Veterans were made up of college players and high school graduates that came back to campus to play as a team in last year's league.

Unlike in 2019, Feger restricted

the games to high school students this year. The Veterans and Teachers teams have asked for a matchup against newly crowned Rocball champion Power-Up in an exhibition game.

Power-Up barely advanced to the

championship series after knocking out The Aces in three games, 42-41. Runner-up Strykers advanced to the finals after beating previously undefeated Laly Four in the semifinals,

See POWER-UP on Page 27

SCS teacher tops Aquathlon



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Community School teacher Sarah Vander Wal, second from right, poses with women's second place Savita Sikkel after finishing first in the run-swim-run component of early yesterday morning's 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run. Flanking the two are Triathlon Association of the CNMI's Manny Sitchon and Ronald Villafria.

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Saipan Community School teacher Sarah

Vander Wal topped the run-swimrun component of early yesterday morning's 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run that started at the Kilili Pavilion in Oleai.

Vander Wal finished the 1km swim split in 18:29 before tackling the run splits (two 5K runs) in 43:49. Her first place finish came as a complete surprise to the eighth grade teacher.

"I was expecting the swim team kids to finish before me," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Vander Wal said after her success in the 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run, she will now train her sights on next March's Tagaman Triathlon and the Saipan Marathon.

"My next plan is to do the swim part of the Tagaman on a team with Rommel Tiosejo and Taylor Nowicki. I am also planning on running the half marathon in March. Other than that, I don't think I have any other upcoming goals," she said.

See SCS TEACHER on Page 27



MARK RABAG

The façade of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will soon get a facelift as local artist Luis Ogo's decade-old mural will be replaced with a new one, just in time for Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games next year.

Decade-old mural to be replaced

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will definitely undergo a makeover not only inside but outside as well just in time for next year's 2021 Pacific Games that Saipan will be hosting for the first time.

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture recently announced a call for proposals for the Ada Gymnasium Mural Project, which would be funded through the FY 2019-2020 Recovery and Art Healing Grant Program.

CCAC, which is under the **See DECADE-OLD on Page 27**